TRAVELS

IN

UPPER AND LOWER EGYPT,

IN COMPANY WITH SEVERAL

DIVISIONS OF THE FRENCH ARMY,

During the Campaigns of

GENERAL BONAPARTE

IN THAT COUNTRY;

AND PUBLISHED UNDER HIS IMMEDIATE PATRONAGE,

BY

VIVANT DENON.

EMBELLISHED WITH NUMEROUS ENGRAVINGS.

TRANSLATED

BY ARTHUR AIKIN.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

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1803.

A MAP
OF
UPPER EGYPT.
N.B. The dotted lines mark the route of the Troops commanded by Desaix during the Expedition of Bonaparte into Egypt.
The same line also shews the track of Citn. Denons Travels.
Heliopolis
Pyramids
Memphis
CAIRO
Sakara
Suez
Arsinoe or Feium
Plain of Bacara or the Cow
Askar Mount.
Monastery of St. Paul
Monastery of St. Anthony
Plain of Sannur or the Cat
Oxyrynchus or Behnese
Mt. Sinai
Miniet
Hermopolis Magna
Antinoe
Melaui
Benadi
Lycopolis or Siut
R E D S E A
White Monastery
Panopolis
Girgeh
Abydus
el Coseir
Diospolis Parva or How
Tentyris or Dendera
Keneh
Coptos
Apollinopolis Parva or Kous
Kurnu
Memnonium
Medinet Abou
Hermontis
THEBES
Karnak
Luxor
Latopolis or Esneh
Chnubis
Hieraconpolis
Apollinopolis Magna or Etfu
Silsilis
Ombos
I. of Elephantina
Svene or Assuan
Cataracts
Philoe
Scale of Myriametres, equal to 30 French Leagues.
French leagues of 3000 Geometrical Paces or 2500 Toises.
Egyptian Schoeni of 60 Stadia
Arabian miles of about 1000 Toises.
Hours of a Caravans march, reckoned at 1500 Toises each.
48
49
50
51
52
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24

1/36198

TRAVELS

IN

UPPER AND LOWER EGYPT.

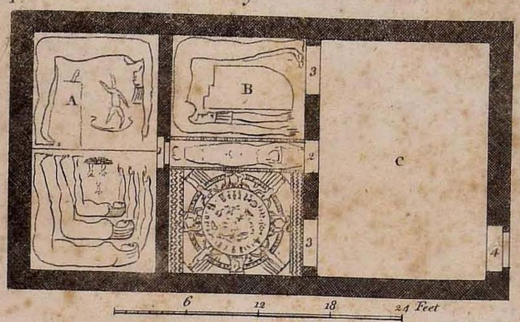
CHAPTER XI.

Town of Siut or Lycopolis—Character of the Lybian Range of Mountains—Antient excavated Tombs—Doum Palm-tree—The Red and White Coptic Convents—Large Town of Girgeh, and Abundance of Provisions—Conversation with a Nubian Prince—Thieving Disposition of the Egyptians—Arabian Tales, and Manner of relating them—Baths—Thunder in Egypt—Arrival of the Flotilla—Battle with the Mamelukes at Samanhut—Pursuit of Murad-Bey—Ap-

proach to Tentyra—Character of Egyptian Architecture—Magnificent Portico—Style of the Ornaments and Hieroglyphics.

SIUT is a large well-peopled town, built, to all appearance, on the ſite of Lycopolis, or the city of the Wolf.—Why the wolf, which is an animal of northern climates, and is not found here? Is it a worſhip borrowed from the Greeks, the account of which we have received from the Romans, who at that time paid but little attention to natural hiſtory, and might have confounded the jackal with the wolf? No antiquities are found in this town, but the Lybian chain, at the foot of which it ſtands, here exhibits ſuch a vaſt number of tombs, that without doubt this town occupies the territory of ſome very ancient and flouriſhing city. We arrived here an hour after noon, and

Fig. 1.



Plan of the small apartment

Fig. 2.

Planisphere taken from the Temple of Tentyra

Walker Sc.

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and we employed the remainder of the day in procuring food for the army, in exercifing the fick, and in taking poffeffion of barks and provifions, which the Mamelukes had not been able to carry away with them.

I haftened to vifit the Lybian chain of mountains, fo eager was I to put my finger on an Egyptian mountain. I had feen two ranges fince I left Cairo, without having been able to rifk climbing any one of them. I found this, as I had fuppofed, a ruin of nature, formed of horizontal and regular ftrata of calcareous ftones more or lefs crumbling, and of different fhades of whitenefs, divided at intervals with large mammillated and concentric flints, which appear to be the nuclei, or, as it were, the bones of this vaft chain, and feem to keep it together, and prevent its total deftruction. This decompofition is daily happening by the im-

preſſion of the ſalt air, which penetrates every part of the calcareous ſurface, decompoſes it, and makes it as it were diſſolve down in ſtreams of ſand, which at firſt collected in heaps at the foot of the rock, and are then carried away by the winds, and encroaching gradually on the cultivated plain and the villages, change them into barrenneſs and deſolation. The rocks are near half a league from Sïut; and in the road is a very pretty houſe of the kiachef, who was agent for Soliman-Bey. The rocks are excavated by a vaſt number of tombs of different dimenſions, and decorated with more or leſs magnificence, and this too can leave no doubt of the proximity of the antient ſite of ſome conſiderable town. I took a drawing of one of the largeſt of theſe monuments, to which a plan is annexed. (See Plate XV.) All the inner porches of theſe

grottoes

grottoes are covered with hieroglyphics; months would be required to read them, even if one knew the language, and it would take years to copy them. One thing I ſaw by the little day-light that enters the firſt porch, which is, that all the elegancies of ornament which the Greeks have employed in their architecture, all the wavy lines, the ſcrolls, and other Greek forms, are here executed with taſte and exquiſite delicacy. If one of theſe excavations was a ſingle operation, as the uniform regularity of the plan of each would ſeem to indicate, it muſt be an immenſe labour to conſtruct a tomb; but we may ſuppoſe that ſuch a one, when once finiſhed, would ſerve for ever for the ſepulture of a whole family or even race, and that ſome religious worſhip was regularly paid to the dead; elſe where would have been the uſe of ſuch finiſhed ornaments of

 inſcrip-

inſcriptions never read, and of a ruinous, ſecret, and buried ſplendour? At different periods or annual feſtivals, or when ſome new inhabitant was added to the tombs, funereal rites were doubtleſs performed, in which the pomp of ceremony might vie with the magnificence of the place; which is the more probable, as the richneſs of decoration in the interior part forms a moſt ſtriking contraſt with the outer walls, which are only the rough native rock, as may be remarked in the view that is annexed. I found one of theſe caves, with a ſingle ſaloon; in which were an innumerable quantity of graves cut in the rock in regular order: they had been ranſacked in order to procure the mummies; and I found ſeveral fragments of their contents, ſuch as linen, hands, feet, and looſe bones.

Beſides theſe principal grottoes, there is

ſuch

ſuch a countleſs number of ſmaller excavations, that the whole rock is cavernous and reſounds under the foot. Further on to the ſouth, are remains of large quarries, the cavities of which are ſupported by pilaſters: ſome of theſe quarries have been the abode of pious hermits, who in theſe rocks, among theſe vaſt retreats, united the auſtere aſpect of an inhabitant of the deſert to the gentle majeſty of one who partakes of the bounties beſtowed by a river, which diſpenſes to its banks plenty and fertility. This was the emblem of their life; before their retreat, cares, wealth, agitation; afterwards, calm and contemplative enjoyments; the ſilence of nature too imitated the reſerve to which they were compelled: in theſe regions the unchanging and auguſt ſplendor of the ſky, forcibly impells to conſtant but chaſtened admiration; the dawn of day is not en-

 livened

livened by the cries of joy or the bounding of animals; the ſong of no bird proclaims the return of morn, even the lark, which in our climates enlivens and animates our fallows, in theſe burning regions only calls to his mate, but never chants his happineſs; the grave dignity of Nature ſeems to inſpire with the deep ſenſe of humble acknowledgment, ſo that the grotto of the cenobite ſeems to have been placed here by the order and choice of the Deity himſelf; and every animated being partakes with him in his grave and ſilent meditation.

Small niches, ſtucco facings, a few red paintings repreſenting croſſes, and ſome inſcriptions in a language which I took to be Coptic, are the only remains which give evidence to the former habitation of the auſtere cenobites in theſe gloomy cells. In the ſeaſon in which we viſited them, nothing

was

was comparable to the exquisite verdure of the banks of the Nile, which embellished the shore with various hues of beautiful green as far as the eye could reach. My curiosity had led me so far from head-quarters, that I could not regain them before the march.

It is always attended with some embarrassment when a large army quits a town. We set out the next morning before day-break. All our guides had joined the same division which caused ours to wander at random, and it was some time before we were all collected. We followed the sinuosities of the canal of Abu-Assi, which is the last of Upper Egypt, and so considerable in size, that it might be considered as an arm of the Nile, dividing with this river the extent of the valley, which in this day's march appeared to be no more than a league in breadth, but cultivated with more care and

and ſkill than any part which we had yet ſeen: we found ſeveral roads marked out, which convinced us that they might, with a very little expence, be made excellent, and moſt completely durable, in a country like this, where neither rain nor froſt are ever ſeen. At every half league we found wells with a ſmall monument of hoſpitality, in which we could allay the thirſt of man and horſe: I took a ſketch of one of the moſt conſiderable of theſe ſmall philanthropic eſtabliſhments, as agreeable as uſeful, which characterize the natural charity of the Arabs. (See Plate XVII. Fig. 2.) Towards the middle of the day we approached the deſert, where I found three new objects; one was the *doum* palm-tree, which differs from the date palm, in having from eight to fifteen ſtems inſtead of only a ſingle one, and its ligneous fruit is attached by cluſters to the

extremity

extremity of the principal branches, whence proceed numerous tufts, which form the foliage of the tree. The fruit is of a triangular form, and of the ſize of an egg; the firſt, or outer coat, is ſpongy, and eats like the carobe; the taſte is ſweetiſh, like honey, reſembling the flavour of ſpice-bread; under this coat is a hard bark, filamentous like the cocoa-nut, which it reſembles more than any other fruit; but it wants the fine hard ligneous ſhell of the cocoa; its gelatinous part is taſteleſs; it becomes very hard by drying, and beads are made of it, ſtrung upon chaplets, which take a good dye and poliſh. (See Plate XVII. Fig. 2.)

I ſaw alſo a charming little bird, which by its ſhape and habitudes ſhould be arranged in the claſs of *fly catchers*; it ſeized and devoured theſe inſects with an admirable addreſs. Thanks to the indolence of the

 Turks,

Turks, all birds are familiar in their country; for though the Turks love nothing, they disturb nothing: the colour of the bird I have just mentioned is a clear and lively green; the head and the feathers beneath the wings, golden; the beak, long, black, and pointed; in the tail it has one feather about half an inch longer than the rest; the size of the bird is about the same as the small titmouse.

A little further off I saw in the desert some swallows of a clear grey colour, like that of the sand over which they were flying: these never emigrate, or at least only go into similar climates, as we never see any of them in Europe of this colour; they are of the species of the wheat-ear.

After marching thirteen hours, we came in the evening to Gamerissiem, unfortunately for this village; for the cries of the

women ſoon convinced us that our ſoldiers, profiting by the darkneſs of the night, under pretence of ſeeking proviſions, and notwithſtanding their wearineſs, were enjoying by violence the gratifications which the place offered them: the inhabitants, pillaged, diſhonoured, and urged to deſperation, fell upon the patroles whom we ſent to defend them; and theſe, attacked by the furious natives, were killing them in their own defence, for want of being able to explain their object, and to make themſelves underſtood.... O war! thou art brilliant in hiſtory, but frightful when viewed with all thy attending horrors, naked, and undiſguiſed.

On the 28th we ſkirted the edge of the deſert, which was bordered by a ſucceſſion of villages. In ſpite of the cold which we felt during the night, the heat of the day and the productions of the earth, gave us

notice

notice that we were approaching the tropic; the barley was now ripe, the wheat in ear, and the melons planted in the open field, were already in full flower. We ſpent the night in a wood near Narcette.

On the 29th we croſſed a deſert, and paſſed by a Coptic convent, to which the Mamelukes had ſet fire on the preceding evening, and which was ſtill burning ſo as to prevent me from entering it; but it reſembled in all its parts the white convent a ſhort diſtance off, and ſituated alſo under the mountain, at the border of the deſert, which I ſhall preſently deſcribe. The firſt is called the *Red Convent*, becauſe it is built of brick; the other the *White Convent*, being conſtructed of ſtones of this colour; this latter had alſo been ſet on fire the preceding evening; but the monks in eſcaping had left the gates open, and ſome of their

ſervants

ſervants were ſaving what they could from the ruins.

The erection of this building is attributed to Saint Helena, which is probably true, to judge by the plan. The church was the only building left ſtanding, but there had doubtleſs been a monaſtery attached to it, as ſome fragments of walls and blocks of granite adjoining ſeem to prove. From the dimenſions of theſe reliques of antiquity, we muſt ſuppoſe, that if Saint Helena built them, the emperor Conſtantine muſt have ſeconded her zeal, by putting very large ſums at her diſpoſal: the monaſtery not being, like the church, built ſo as to make a ſtrong and tenable caſtle, it muſt doubtleſs have been deſtroyed long before, by ſome ſuch violence as that which we were now witneſſes of; the church, on the contrary, was built ſo ſtrong, that, with a portcullis at the entrance, and

a few

a few pieces of cannon on the walls, it might easily resist the attacks of the Arabs, or even the Mamelukes. But these poor monks being without arms, could only oppose to oppression their patience, sanctity, resignation, and especially their poverty, which would have saved them on any other occasion; but in the present case the Mamelukes revenged themselves on catholics, for the evils which they had experienced from other catholics, as if they could by this injustice make up for the loss which we had occasioned them. We perceived in the ruins produced by this catastrophe some charcoal, which remained from the burning of the wood-yard; and the urgent necessities of insatiable war compelled us also to take away these wrecks of the devastation of which we had been the cause.

Since the first destruction of the convent

the

the monks had made their dwellings in the lateral gallery of the church, if dwellings they might be called, which were only wretched huts, ſet up under thoſe ſplendid porches; it was miſery in the very palace of pride.

The fathers had fled; we only found the brothers, clothed in rags, who had ſcarcely recovered from the fright and agony which they had experienced the night before. To have a full idea of the life, the character, and means of ſubſiſtence of theſe monks, the reader ſhould conſult the excellent memoir which General Andreoſſi has given concerning the natron lakes, in which he has introduced an account of the convents of El-Baramous, Saint Ephraim, and Saint Macaire. This exact and judicious writer has there deſcribed the poverty of theſe monks, their continual ſtate of warfare with the

 Arabs,

Arabs, the misery of their life, and the moral causes which render it supportable to them, and which perpetuate these establishments.

Whilst we were halting I made a drawing of this convent (See Plate XVII. Fig. 1.) which will give an idea of the situation of these establishments on the edge of the desert, but commanding a view of the rich country, watered by the canal of Abu-Assi, and of the architecture of these edifices of the fourth century, and consequently two thousand years posterior to the grand monuments of high Egyptian antiquity. The gravity of style here displayed, the cornices, and the gates, are absolutely the same as the primitive architecture; the general outline is good, excepting some deficiencies in the choir, in which may be observed the decay of taste. We encamped in the evening at Bonnasse Bura.

The

The next day we returned along the Nile, and croſſed the field of battle, in which, during the laſt war between the Turks and the Mamelukes, Aſſan-Baſha was beaten by Murad-Bey, where the latter, with five thouſand Mamelukes, overthrew, and routed eighteen thouſand Turks and three thouſand Mamelukes. Malem-Jacob, a Copt, who accompanied us as our ſteward, was a ſpectator of this battle and had taken a ſhare in it, and he explained to us all the particulars. He ſhewed us with what ſuperiority of talent Murad had gained his advantage and profited by it; the ſame Murad-Bey would now foam with anger, at being obliged to repaſs the ſame field of battle, flying before fifteen hundred infantry. As we were converſing on the viciſſitudes of fortune, drawn on by the eagerneſs of talk, we had very imprudently, as was our uſual

cuſtom, got half a league before the army. I ſaid in jeſt to Deſaix, that it would be very ridiculous to have it told in hiſtory, that he had loſt his head in a rencounter with half a dozen Mamelukes, and that for my part I ſhould be inconſolable to leave mine behind a buſh, where it would be forgotten. At this time we were paſſing out of Minchia; the adjutant Clement came to inform the General that there were Mamelukes in the village, and indeed we preſently ſaw firſt two, then ſix, then ten, and afterwards four more, and two behind, along with their baggage: they ſoon obſerved us; if we retreated we ſhould have been carried off, as the country was encloſed; Deſaix, therefore, put a good face on the matter, and appeared to be making his arrangements; he had four fuſileers whom he placed alternately on each ſide, to encreaſe the appearance of our force: we

we got ſome ditches between us and the enemy, we gained time, and at laſt our advanced guard came up, and they retired. We were told that Murad was waiting for us at Girgeh; we heard loud cries, and ſaw clouds of duſt aſcend. Deſaix thought that at laſt he was going to obtain the battle which he had been ſeeking ſo painfully for the laſt fortnight; I was diſpatched to haſten the infantry up. While galloping along, I juſt perceived an ancient embankment on the edge of the Nile, and flights of ſteps deſcending into two baſons—were they the ruins of Ptolemais? A canon was fired as a ſignal to the cavalry, who were at a league diſtance, to rejoin us, and in half an hour we were ready either for attack or defence. We marched in order of battle up to the ſpot where the greateſt number had collected, but they diſperſed; the Mamelukes them-

ſelves diſappeared, and we arrived at Girgeh, without being able to come up with the enemy.

Here the pitileſs reader, ſitting quietly at his table with his map before him, will ſay to the poor, hungry, haraſſed traveller, expoſed to all the trouble of war: "I ſee no account of "Apheoditopolis, Crocodilopolis, "Ptolemais—what is become of all theſe "towns? What had you to do there, if you "could not give any account of them? had "you not a horſe to carry you, an army to "protect you, and an interpreter to anſwer "all your queſtions—and have I not relied "upon you to give me ſome information on "all theſe ſubjects?" But, kind reader, pleaſe to recollect, that we are ſurrounded with Arabs and Mamelukes, and that, in all probability, I ſhould be made priſoner, pillaged, and very likely killed, if I had thought

proper

proper to venture only a hundred paces from the column to fetch some of the bricks of Aphroditopolis. The embanked quay, which I saw in galloping to Minchia, was Ptolemais, and no other remains of this town exist.

A little more patience, and we shall go and turn over a soil entirely new to the curious traveller, to see the places which Herodotus himself has only described from the lying reports which were given to him, and which modern travellers have only been able to draw and measure, surrounded by every cause of anxiety, without daring to lose sight of the river, plundered on every pretence by the reis, by their interpreter, by every sheik, basha, and kiachef, into whose hands they might happen to fall; abandoned by some of their servants, pillaged by others, suspected of sorcery, tormented

on account of treaſures which they were ſuppoſed to have found, or to be in queſt of, obliged, in taking drawings, to have an eye on the attendants that ſurrounded them, who were ready to deſtroy the fruits of their labours, if not to make an attempt on their perſons; theſe travellers, under ſuch circumſtances, cannot be blamed in tranſmitting very imperfect accounts of countries ſo curious, but at the ſame time ſo dangerous to viſit.

Thanks to the obſtinate perſeverance of the brave Murad-Bey, who will ſtill try the chance of war, while the reſt of Egypt is in our poſſeſſion, we ſhall contrive to purſue him, and this will lead us at laſt into the promiſed land, from which my harveſt will be reaped.

Girgeh, where we arrived two hours after noon, is the capital of Upper Egypt: it is

a modern

a modern town that contains nothing remarkable: it is as large as Minyeh and Melaui, but lefs than Sïut, and lefs beautiful than either. The name of Girgeh, or Djergeh, is derived from a large monaftery built previoufly to the town, and dedicated to St. George, which is pronounced *Girgeh* in the language of the country. The convent ftill exifts, and we found in it European monks. The Nile razes the walls of Girgeh, and is conftantly wafhing away a part of them; and it would require a confiderable expence to make here but an indifferent harbour for boats This town is therefore interefting only as being fituated half way between Cairo and Syene, and in a very rich territory. We found here all kinds of provifions, at a very low price; bread was one fous the pound; twelve eggs, two fous; two pigeons, three fous; a goofe weighing fifteen pounds,

we

we got at twelve ſous:—could this be poverty? Such too was the abundance of theſe articles, that after more than five thouſand of us had remained here three weeks, and had encreaſed the conſumption, and ſcattered out money, no riſe in the demand for theſe neceſſaries had taken place.

However, our boats did not arrive; we were in want of ſhoes and of biſcuit; the army therefore went into regular quarters here, ſet up ovens, and prepared a barrack to ſtation five hundred men; and during this time of reſt for us all, I experienced in my own caſe the great advantage of ſtrengthening my eye-ſight, which had become ſo indifferent as to threaten ſerious inconvenience. I had, indeed, no remedy with me; but I found a pot of honey, and a jar of vinegar, in the houſe of the ſheik in which I lodged, which did me great ſervice, for I

eat abundantly of the former, and cooled the heat of my blood with the latter, which I drank largely, mixed with water and ſugar.

On the 3d of January we learnt that the peaſants, ſeduced by the Mamelukes, were collecting in order to attack us in the rear, whilſt they were promiſed that we ſhould be aſſaulted at the ſame time in front. They had but a month ago plundered a caravan of two hundred merchants, who were coming from India by the Red Sea, Coſſeir, and Kouſs; they therefore gave themſelves great credit for their courage: forty of the neighbouring villages had aſſembled ſix or ſeven thouſand men, but our cavalry charged them, ſabred ten or twelve hundred of them, and put an end to their project.

We found at Girgeh a Nubian prince, a brother to the king of Darfur: he was returning from India, and was going to rejoin

another of his brothers, who was accompanying another caravan of Nubians of Sennar, with as many women. He was bringing to Cairo elephants' teeth and gold duſt, to barter againſt coffee, ſugar, ſhawls, cloth, lead, iron, ſenna, and tamarinds. We had a long converſation with this young prince, who was lively, gay, impetuous, and clever, all of which were ſhewn in his phyſiognomy: his colour was deeper than bronze, his eyes very fine and well ſet, his noſe ſomewhat turned up and ſmall, his mouth very wide but not flat, and his legs, like thoſe of all the Africans, bowed and lank. He told us that his brother was an ally of the king of Burnu, and traded with him, and that he was always at war with the people of Sennar. He likewiſe informed us, that it was forty days journey from Darfur to Siut, during which time water was only to be met

with

with once a week, either in the wells or in crossing the *oasis*. The profits of these caravans ought to be enormous to repay the expense and trouble of fitting them out, and to indemnify them for their very great fatigues. When their female slaves were not taken in war, they cost them one indifferent gun, and the men slaves two. He told us, that it was very cold in his country at a certain time of the year, and having no word to express to us *ice*, he said, that they eat a great deal of a substance which was hard when taken in the hands, and which slipped through the fingers when it was held there for some time. We enquired of him of Tombuctoo, this celebrated city, the existence of which is so problematical in Europe. He was not surprised at our questions. From his account Tombuctoo was at the south-west of his country, and its inhabitants

bitants came to trade with him: they were ſix months on their journey from Tombuctoo to Darfur, and purchaſed the various articles which he brought from Cairo, for which they exchanged gold duſt. He added, that this country was called in their language the *paradiſe*; that the town of Tombuctoo was ſituated on the banks of a river, which flowed towards the weſt, and that the inhabitants were ſmall of ſtature, and mild in diſpoſition. We regretted much that we could not enjoy more time with this intereſting traveller, but we could not indiſcreetly urge him with queſtions, though he ſeemed to be perfectly well inclined to tell us what he knew, having nothing of the Muſſulman gravity and taciturnity, and expreſsing himſelf with eaſe and energy. He told us, beſides, that in his country the ſucceſſion of the royal family was elective; that the

the military and civil chiefs, after the death of a king, chofe, out of his fons, him whom they thought moft worthy to fucceed to the throne; and that hitherto there had been no example of a civil war being produced by this cuftom.

All that I have been relating is, word for word, an authentic copy of the converfation which we had with this foreign prince. He added, that we had an infinite number of things to furnifh Africa with, and that we fhould find them very willing to trade with us, without injuring the commerce which they kept up with each other; that we fhould attach them to our interefts by all their wants, and by the exportation of the fuperfluity of our productions; that the trade with India, in like meafure, might be carried on through Mecca, taking this town or that of Cofleir as a common *entrepôt*, in the fame way as Aleppo

is

is for the Muſſulman ſtates, notwithſtanding the length of march required on each ſide to arrive at the common point of contact.

We were now waiting every day for the barks which were to follow our march, on board of which were our proviſions, ammunition, and the clothing of our troops. The wind, contrary to what generally prevails at this ſeaſon, had been uniformly favourable for the arrival of the barks, and yet they were not come. We had diſpatched ſeveral expreſſes to gain ſome tidings of them; but the firſt that we ſent had periſhed in paſſing through the revolted villages, and the others did not appear, ſo that we were compelled to loſe our moſt favourable ſeaſon in inaction. The country even might begin to think that we feared to meet the Mamelukes, and this opinion would diſaffect the peaſants towards us: indeed they already refuſed to

pay

pay the *miri*, alledging as a reaſon, that there muſt be a battle, and they would pay it to the conqueror.

On the 9th of January, the tenth day of our arrival, General Deſaix determined to ſend his cavalry to Sïut, to know abſolutely what was become of his maritime convoy. We had previouſly ſent from Girgeh a battalion to Bardis, in queſt of proviſion; the officer who commanded it informed us, on the evening of the ninth, that the Mamelukes had given out that on the eleventh they would march from Hau, to reach us on the next day; and that they were abſolutely determined to give us battle. This news was confirmed from every quarter; although Deſaix was not convinced that the great object of our wiſhes was at hand, he had additional reaſon to complain of our flotilla, which by depriving us of the aſſiſtance of

our cavalry, would prevent us from making advantage of our victory, in caſe we gained one; for infantry alone can never do more with the Mamelukes than accept of battle, not being able to compel them to it, or oblige them to continue it longer than they think proper.

Another peſt with which we were much haraſſed, was a perpetual theft, which was contrived by the offenders in ſuch a manner, that no rigour of military execution could protect our arms or our horſes. Every night the inhabitants ſtole into our camp like rats, and lurking about, they generally found an opportunity to ſeize ſome article of plunder, and carry it away with them. Some of the robbers had been caught in the very fact, and ſacrificed to the rage of the ſoldiers on guard; it was hoped that this rigour would prove a ſalutary example; the guard was doubled,

doubled, and yet on the ſame day two of the artillery forges were taken off; but the robbers were apprehended and ſhot immediately. In the night which followed this execution, the horſes of the aid-de-camp of the general of cavalry were ſtolen: the general laid a wager that they would not touch any of his property, but the next day his horſe alſo diſappeared, and the plunderers had pulled down part of a wall in order to ſurprize the general himſelf, which failed only on account of day-light coming before they were prepared.

On the 10th we learnt that Murad-Bey had invited the Arab ſhieks of the villages which had ſubmitted to us to rendezvous at Girgeh, and march againſt us. On the 12th, the day in which we were to have been attacked, ſeveral of theſe ſhieks ſent us a letter, informing us that they remained faithful

to their treaty, and denounced to us thoſe who had promiſed to march to join Murad; but the encounter which they had had with our cavalry diſconcerted their plans.

The ſky was cloudy on the 11th, and we ſuffered from it as if it were a ſharp winter's day, though it would have been reckoned in Europe fine April weather, ſo much is the abſence of a bleſſing conſidered as a poſitive evil! On this day, however, which we complained of ſo much, I ſaw a vine-ſtalk as green as in the month of July; the leaves in this country only harden, become red, and dry, whilſt the end of the branch perpetually renews its verdure; the creeping peas do the ſame, their ſtalk becomes woody: and I have ſeen ſome that were forty feet high, and had climbed to the tops of trees.

We learned alſo that there had arrived from Mecca, by the way of Coſſeir, an innumerable

numerable troop of foot ſoldiers to join Murad-Bey, and that they were on their march to attack us.

On the 13th we were informed that our cavalry had fallen in with a number of the enemy at Menſhieth, had put to the ſword a thouſand of theſe deluded people, and had purſued their march. This was certainly not a leſſon of fraternization; but our poſition, perhaps, rendered an act of ſeverity neceſſary: this province, which had always the reputation of being very turbulent, and very formidable, required to be taught that they could not brave us with impunity; it was, beſides, our policy to conceal from them, that our means were ſmall, and our reſources diſperſed; and to give them the impreſſion of our being as vindictive when provoked, as mild when treated with reſpect; and that we ſhould puniſh ſeverely thoſe who were

difpofed to doubt that all we did was finally for their own good.

We prepared to march as foon as our cavalry returned, whether our flotilla was to come at laft, or whether we fhould be obliged to give it up; for by remaining here we did but encreafe the evils of our fituation, and thofe which we were obliged to make the inhabitants fuffer in keeping up this conftant ftate of war, uncertainty, and diforganization.

Still no tidings of our cavalry on the 14th. We amufed ourfelves with hearing Arabian tales, in order to kill time, and relieve our impatience. The Arabs relate ftories fo flowly, that our interpreters could follow them almoft without interrupting the narrative. They retain the fame paffion for thefe tales as we have long been familiar with in the thoufand and one tales of the

fultana

ſultana Scheraſadé; and in this reſpect, Deſaix and myſelf almoſt equalled the ſultan; his prodigious memory loſt ſcarcely a ſingle phraſe of what he had heard; and I forbore to write them down, as he promiſed to repeat them to me from memory, word for word. I obſerved, however, that if theſe relations were not rich in natural images and juſt ſentiment (a merit which ſeems to belong excluſively to the writers of the north), they abound in extraordinary events and intereſting ſituations, occaſioned by high and ſtrong paſſions: theſe writers make abundant uſe of all the machinery of caſtles, iron grates, poiſons, daggers, rapes, night adventures, miſtakes, treachery; in ſhort, all that can embroil a narration, and appear to render the *denouement* impoſſible, and yet the ſtory always finiſhes very naturally in the cleareſt and moſt ſatisfactory manner.

This is the merit of the inventor, and to this the narrator adds that of precifion and declamation, which are in high efteem with the audience; and thus it happens that the fame ftory is told by feveral relators fucceffively with equal intereft and fuccefs; one giving in a better ftyle of declamation the pathetic and amorous part; another throwing in more intereft in the battle fcenes and thofe of horror; and a third humouring the laughable events; in fhort, it is their theatrical entertainment; and as we go to a play the firft time for the piece, and afterwards for particular actors; fo with the Arabs thefe repeated reprefentations do not fatigue the auditors. Thefe tales are followed with difcuffions; the parts which have excited applaufe are criticifed, and thus the talents of the performers are brought to greater perfection; and all thofe who have acquired a

high

high pitch of excellence in this art are in great eſtimation, as they contribute to the happineſs of a whole family or even a horde. The Arabs have alſo their poets, even their improviſatores, who exhibit at great feaſts, and they appear to be enchanted with them. I have heard them, but when their ſongs are not narrative, they doubtleſs loſe much by being tranſlated; they ſeemed to me to be only *concetti*, or a very inſipid play upon words: theſe poets too have very ſingular manners, and particular tricks or geſtures, which diſtinguiſh them indeed from others, but give an appearancee of inſanity that inſpired me with pity and repugnance; which was not the caſe with the narrators of the tales, who appear to have much more talent and nature.

Our delays ought to have diſtreſſed me leſs than others, ſince it gave me time to

allay

the inflamation of my eyes; but I partook of the impatience of Deſaix, who depended on the reſources which our convoy had on board, the abſence of which paralyſed all his operations in every quarter, and left him in a diſtreſſing ſtate of inaction. Happily we had few ſick and wounded, for the phyſicians, who were without remedies, could only look on, to tell them what ſhould have been done for them, and could adminiſter nothing: however, we eſtabliſhed a hoſpital, ovens, and a magazine, and we had a barrack ſufficiently well fortified to be defended againſt any inſurrection or attack of the peaſants, and to hold in ſecurity three hundred men, in this little inlet of a poſt on the Nile.

Not knowing well what to do for my inflamed eyes, I went to the baths of the town, and found much eaſe from this remedy,

medy. I ſhall here refer my reader to the elegant deſcription given of theſe Egyptian baths by Savary, whoſe rich imagination has ſet before his readers a very lively picture of the pleaſure which they afford, and the voluptuous gratification which they are capable of procuring. I took a drawing of the bath which I uſed. (See plate XVI.)

The morning of the 15th was cold enough to make one wiſh for a fire, but it was rather the chillneſs of a raw morning in May, for on putting my head out of my window, I ſaw the birds alive and active, and buſy in making their neſts: in the evening of this day it thundered, a very rare occurrence in this country, which happens hardly oftener than once in a generation, by a concourſe of circumſtances perhaps not difficult of explanation. The north wind, which is the moſt conſtant of all thoſe that prevail

prevail in this part of the world, brings from the ſea the clouds of a colder region, rolls them along through the valley of Egypt, where a burning ſun rarefies them and reduces them to vapour; when this vapour is driven into Abyſſinia, the ſouth wind, which croſſes the lofty and cold mountains of this country, ſometimes brings back a few ſcattered clouds, which, as they experience but little change of temperature when returning over the humid valley of the Nile in flood-time, remain condenſed, and at times produce, without thunder or tempeſt, ſmall haſty ſhowers. But, as the eaſt and weſt winds, which are in general the parents of ſtorms, both croſs burning deſerts, which either abſorb the clouds or raiſe the vapour to ſuch a height as to be able to paſs over the narrow valley of Upper Egypt, without being able to undergo detonation by the

operation

operation of the waters of the river, the phenomenon of thunder becomes ſo rare an occurrence to the inhabitants of this country, that even the thinking people who reſide here do not attempt to aſſign to it a phyſical cauſe. General Deſaix having queſtioned a perſon in the law in this place on the cauſe of thunder, he replied, with the perfect confidence of conviction: "We know very
"well that it is an angel, but ſo ſmall in ſta-
"ture that he cannot be perceived in the
"air; he has however the power of con-
"ducting the clouds of the Mediterranean
"into Abyſſinia, and when the wickedneſs
"of men is at its height, he makes his voice
"heard, which is a voice of menace and re-
"proach; and as a proof that he has alſo
"the diſpoſal of puniſhment, he opens a
"little way the gate of heaven, whence darts
"out the lightning; but as the clemency

"of God is infinite, never is his wrath carried "further in Upper Egypt."

It was a matter of ſurprize to us to hear a ſenſible-looking man, with a venerable white beard, relate ſuch a puerile tale. Deſaix wiſhed to explain to him in another manner this phenomenon, but the old man thought it ſo inferior to his own, that he even did not take the trouble to liſten to it. It had by this time rained all night, which rendered the ſtreets muddy, ſlippery, and hardly paſſable. Here finiſhes the hiſtory of our winter, which I ſhall not again have occaſion to mention.

We had now ſet up ovens after the manner of the country, and baked biſcuit for ourſelves. The Egyptians manage their ovens with great ſkill and addreſs; for, individually, they are dexterous and induſtrious, and as they have ſcarcely more tools to work

work with than any ſavage, it is ſurpriſing how much they do with their fingers, the inſtruments to which they are commonly reduced; and with their feet, with which they aſſiſt their hands wonderfully. As workmen they have one great recommendation, which is, that they are patient and unaſſuming, and ready to repeat their work till it is done to your mind. I know not whether they can be made brave; but we ought not to ſee, without ſome apprehenſion, the qualities of good ſoldiers which they already exhibit; they are eminently ſober, as active on their legs as couriers, centaurs on horſeback, and tritons in ſwimming; and yet four thouſand French exerciſe abſolute empire over ſeveral millions of ſuch men, poſſeſſing ſuch formidable qualities of body; ſo ſtrongly impreſſed on the mind of ſome perſons is the habit of obedience, as that of

command is on others, and this ſtate continues till one party ſlumber over their abuſe of power, whilſt the others at laſt awake at the noiſe of their chains.

On the 18th of January our cavalry returned; they brought us the welcome news of the arrival of our barks, and gave us the particulars of a battle which they had fought with ſeveral Mamelukes and their allies, who had ſpread the intelligence that they had forced our poſition and defeated us, and that our cavalry were the wrecks of the French army, who were endeavouring to make good their return to Cairo. Two thouſand Arabs on horſeback, and five or ſix thouſand peaſants on foot, had intended to cut off our cavalry, and for this purpoſe had advanced beyond Tata to meet them: when our troops diſcovered them they began to form; but the enemy ſuppoſing that our cavalry would

decline

decline the combat, had charged with their accuſtomed diſorder, that is to ſay, with ſome of the boldeſt in front, and the reſt in the middle, all ſtriking and never parrying: but at the ſecond diſcharge, the enemy, aſtoniſhed to receive from cavalry a fire as well kept up as that of a battalion, began to give way, and having loſt forty of their men, with about a hundred wounded, they had diſperſed in different directions, deſerting their poor infantry, who as uſual had been ſabred, and would have been entirely deſtroyed, if night had not aſſiſted their eſcape.

On the 20th our long expected boats arrived, and the ſupplies which they brought with them, and above all the muſic of one of our demi-brigades playing favourite French airs, gave us all ſuch a ſurpriſing ſenſation of delight at Girgeh, that we forgot all the fretting impatience under which

we had of late ſo much ſuffered. Alas, it was the ſong of the menaced ſwan! but let us not anticipate events; in war time, above all, the preſent moment muſt be enjoyed, ſince no one can command the ſucceeding.

On the 21ſt the advance-money and the brandy with which we were now ſupplied, gave a new pleaſure to the life of the ſoldier, who, already tired of eating his ſix eggs for a ſous, ſet out with joy to meet with freſh hardſhips.

We had been for twenty-one days tiring ourſelves with the inaction to which we had been compelled: I knew that I was near Abidus, where Oſymandyas had built a temple, and where Memnon had reſided. I was conſtantly urging Deſaix to ſend thither a reconnoitring party as far as El-Araba, where I daily heard there were ſeveral ruins; and as often Deſaix ſaid to me, " I will conduct

" you

"you thither myſelf; Murad-Bey is two "days journey from us, he will come up to "us the day after to-morrow, and we ſhall "then give him battle, and when we ſhall "have beat him, we can then beſtow as "much time as you will on antiquities, and "I will help you myſelf to meaſure them." My good friend was certainly in the right, and even if it were not ſo, I muſt have contented myſelf.

At laſt, on the 22nd, we quitted Girgeh at the approach of night, and we paſſed directly oppoſite to the antiquities. Deſaix dared not look me in the face: "If I am "killed to-morrow," ſaid I to him, "my "ghoſt will be always haunting you, repeat- "ing in your ears El-Araba." In truth, he recollected my menace, for five months after he ſent from Sïut an order for a detachment to be given me to eſcort me to El-Araba.

We arrived before a village: it was only the next day we learnt that it was called El-Besera, for in the evening there was not a single inhabitant left to speak to. For my own part, I was not very sorry to find these villages empty, as it prevented me from hearing the cries of the inhabitants, from whom we were obliged to supply our wants by force; whereas when they were apprised of our coming every thing was removed, even to the doors and window-cases; and a village thus stript only two hours before, had the appearance of a ruin a century old.

The next day, as I was setting out the foremost on the march, having the least to do, I was the first to perceive the Mamelukes. They advanced towards us, shewing a front of an immense extent. We immediately formed in three squares, two of infantry for our wings, and our cavalry in the centre, flanked

flanked with eight pieces of artillery on the angles. In this order we marched, taking the route to Samanhut, a village of confiderable elevation, below which we hoped to take a good pofition. The Mamelukes now dividing their force, turned us in three points, and began to fire their pieces, and to fet up their war cries, before we even thought of ufing our artillery. A body of volunteers from Mecca were pofted in a ravine between the village and our army, and fired from under cover on the fquare of our twenty-firft. Defaix fent a detachment of infantry to diflodge them from their trenches, and another of cavalry to purfue them when they were driven out of their poft. The cavalry, which was too eager, made the attack too foon and to difadvantage; one of our men was killed, another wounded, and the aid-de-camp Rapp, received a fabre

 wound,

wound, which would have brought him to the ground, had not a volunteer parried off four more blows that were aimed at him: the Mecca troop, however, were repulſed.

Chaſſeurs were now ſent to the village to diſlodge thoſe of the enemy who had taken poſt there; the Mamelukes drew up to attack our left, whilſt another party threatened our right; they had at one time a favourable moment for charging us, but they heſitated, and loſt an opportunity which never again occurred. However, they continued to prance round us, making a moſt brilliant diſplay of their glittering arms, and of their ſkill in horſemanſhip, in which they exhibited all the oriental ſplendour; but the rigid ſeverity of our northern diſcipline preſented a ſpectacle equally formidable and commanding; the contraſt however was ſtriking; it was iron in battle array againſt gold,

the

the whole plain ſparkled with poliſhed arms and accoutrements, and the picture was beautiful. Our artillery fired on the whole front of the enemy at once, who made a falſe attack on our right, in which ſeveral of their men were killed. One of their leaders ſtruck with a bullet, fell down too near us to be aſſiſted by his own people, and whilſt his foot hung in the ſtirrup, the horſe without abandoning his rider, would not let any one approach him; but the cupidity of our markſmen was raiſed by the gold which glittered on the dreſs of this unfortunate chief, who was thus dragged from place to place by his horſe, and made to ſuffer the horrors of death in many forms.

Another party of chaſſeurs had been ſent to Samanhut, to diſlodge the enemy from that village alſo. They ſoon effected their object, and Murad himſelf was one of thoſe

that fled from this place, which was the post of his reserve: he took the route to Farshiut. This movement divided the whole of the enemy's army. Desaix took advantage of it to occupy the ground which they were quitting, and ordered the cavalry to charge those that still remained on our right. In an instant we saw them in the desert, gaining the first ascent of the mountain with incredible speed: we thought that, when in this favourable ground they would halt, to make head against our cavalry, but terror and disorder were among their ranks, and they only thought of collecting together to protect their flight; some of their stragglers were killed and some camels taken, a small body fled separately on our left, the firing ceased at noon, and at one o'clock none of our enemies were in sight. We directed our march to Farshiut, which Murad-Bey had already abandoned.

This unfortunate town had been pillaged ſome hours before by the Mamelukes. The ſheik was a deſcendant of the ſheiks Amman, who were powerful ſovereigns, much reſpected in Saïd, and in the beginning of this century had reigned with equity, and had been able to protect their ſubjects from the vexations of the Mamelukes. The preſent ſheik, who had been conquered by Murad, and was reduced to a ſtate of weakneſs and poverty, had ſeen with pleaſure his avengers in us, and had prepared biſcuit for our arrival; but Murad, defeated and obliged to fly, had ſent for this old prince before he left Farſhiut, had loaded him with reproaches, and in his rage had cut his head off with his own hand. When our troops arrive they compleat the pillage of the magazines, the *generale* is beat to prevent this diſorder, but the whole army was equally in fault, and muſt have been puniſhed;

punished; a forced march is immediately ordered, and to escape the reproaches and clamour of the inhabitants, we set out on our march at midnight.

The darkness was frightful, and the cold severe enough to oblige us to light a fire every time that the artillery halted. As Desaix, his aides-de-camp, and myself, were standing under the shelter of a wall by one of our fires, we received a volley from some fusileers at the top of the wall: they were some of the volunteers from Mecca who still hovered about us, for it was our destiny to meet with them every where; they were twenty in number, and we killed eight of them; the others escaped, owing to the darkness of the night. These volunteers, who called themselves noble, wore the green turban, as descendants of the race of Ali: and the vagabond chevaliers, who lived by plundering

dering the caravans on the ſhore of Gidda, were now urged by their noble zeal, and tempted by the dead time of year for their uſual occupation, to come and attack a European people, whom they thought were covered with gold, that would repay by an ample booty all their toils and hazards.

Armed with three javelins, a pike, a dagger, a brace of piſtols, and a carabine, they attack with boldneſs, reſiſt with obſtinacy; and though mortally wounded, ſeem aſtoniſhingly tenacious of life; for in this laſt rencounter I ſaw one of them ſtill ſtrike at and wound two of our men, whilſt they were holding him nailed againſt a wall with their bayonets.

We arrived at Haw an hour before ſunriſe. The Mamelukes had juſt left it; one party of the beys had entered the deſert with their camels, to arrive at Eſneh by this

route

route in a day and a half, the reſt had followed the courſe of the Nile, which requires a journey of ſix days.

Haw, or the ancient Dioſpolis Parva is in a fine military ſituation; it poſſeſſes no remains of antiquity.

Here we halted during the day, and ſet out an hour before night, which as we knew by the experience of yeſterday would be dark, and attended with danger for the march of our artillery. But the conqueſt of Egypt, which had begun ſo auſpiciouſly by the battle of the pyramids, would have finiſhed with equal brilliance by the battle of Thebes, if we could have brought our *Fabius*, Murad-Bey, to compleat action. How many forced marches has the remembrance of this battle coſt us! but Deſaix was not the ſpoiled child of fortune, and his ſtar was cloudy: experience could not convince him of our inability

bility to purfue the enemy with an equal fpeed; he would hear nothing which could throw a damp on his hopes. The artillery was too cumberfome, the infantry too flow, the ftrong cavalry too heavy, nothing but the light cavalry could keep pace with his eager wifhes, and I am fure that he lamented not being a fimple captain, that he might follow his impetuous ardour, and charge Murad at the head of his company. At laft we fet out, and after being enlightened by the illufive fplendour of an aurora borealis, and waiting for the moon's rifing till half after ten, we arrived at eleven at a large village, the name of which I could never learn, and where, unfortunately for their reputation, and to the great misfortune of the inhabitants, our foldiers mifbehaved......We left this place at the firft dawn of day, on the 15th of January. The tongue of cultivated land now became more narrow on the left

bank

bank on which we were marching, but encreafed on the right bank in nearly the fame proportion.

At laft we entered the defert, and we there faw a wild beaft, which by its fize and remarkable form we took to be a hyena. We pufhed on to overtake it, but it ran from us as faft as we could gallop, and we were obliged to give up the purfuit.

We were now approaching Tentyra in our march, and here I ventured to fpeak to Defaix of halting, but he anfwered me with fome ill-humour: this difpleafure, however, lafted but a moment, for foon after, refuming his natural fenfibility, he came to me, and partaking of my love for the fine arts, he fhewed himfelf even a warmer friend to them than myfelf. Endowed with a truly rare delicacy of mind, he had united a love of all the amiable paffions with an ardent

thirft

thirſt for glory; and to a great extent of knowledge, which he already poſſeſſed, he added a conſtant deſire of encreaſing the ſtores of his mind with all the means of information which fell in his way, ſo that his active curioſity rendered his ſociety always agreeable, and his converſation intereſting.

We arrived at Tentyra. The firſt object which I ſaw was a ſmall temple on the left hand of the road, in ſo bad a ſtyle and proportions of architecture, that at a diſtance I took it to be the ruins of a moſque. In turning back to the right, I found buried in a gloomy heap of ruins a gate, built of enormous maſſes covered with hieroglyphics; and through this gate I had a view of the temple. I wiſh I could here transfuſe into the ſoul of my readers the ſenſation which I experienced. I was too much loſt in aſtoniſhment to be capable of cool judgment;

all that I had ſeen hitherto ſerved here but to fix my admiration. This monument ſeemed to me to have the primitive character of a temple in the higheſt perfection. Covered with ruins as it was, the ſenſation of ſilent reſpect which it excited in my mind appeared to me a proof of its impreſſive aſpect, and without being partial in favour of the antique, I may add, that the whole army experienced ſimilar feelings.

Before entering into particulars, let us refer to the different views for a general idea of the extent and plan of this edifice, its preſent ſtate, and the pictureſque effect which it exhibits. (See Plates XVIII. XIX. and XX.) Theſe views will give an idea of the ſituation of the antient city of Tentyra, which was built on the borders of the deſert, on the loweſt level of the Lybian chain, the foot of which is waſhed by the waters of the

inundation

inundation of the Nile at the diſtance of a league from its bed.

Nothing is more ſimple and better put together than the few lines which compoſe this architecture. The Egyptians, borrowing nothing from the ſtyle of other nations, have here added no foreign ornament, no ſuperfluity of materials: order and ſimplicity are the principles which they have followed, and they have carried them to ſublimity. At this point they have ſtopped, and have attached ſo much importance to preſerving the unity of deſign, that though they have loaded the walls of theſe edifices with bas-reliefs, inſcriptions, and hiſtorical and ſcientific repreſentations, none of theſe rich additions interſects a ſingle line of the general plan, all of which are religiouſly preſerved unbroken: the ſumptuous, and rich decorations which appear to the eye when cloſe to

to the building, all vaniſh at a ſhort diſtance, and leave full to view the grand elements of architectural compoſition, which are dictated by ſound reaſon. It never rains in this climate; all that is wanted therefore is a covering of plat-bands to give ſhade, but beyond this, neither roof nor pediment are added; the plain-ſlope is the principle of ſolidity; they have therefore adopted this form for every main ſupporter, doubtleſs with the idea that ſtability is the firſt impreſſion that architecture ſhould give, and is an eſſential conſtituent of this art. With theſe people, the idea of the immortality of the Deity is preſented by the eternity of his temple; theſe ornaments, which are always rational, always conſiſtent, always ſignificant, demonſtrate a ſteadineſs of principle, a taſte founded upon truth, and a deep train of reaſoning; and if we even had not a full conviction

viction of the eminent height to which they had attained in the abstract sciences, their architecture alone, in the state in which we now find it, would give the observer of the present day a high opinion of the antiquity of this nation, of its cultivation, and the impressive gravity of its character.

I have already said, that I despair of being able to express all that I felt on standing under the portico of Tentyra. I felt that I was in the sanctuary of the arts and sciences. How many periods presented themselves to my imagination at the sight of such an edifice! how many ages of creative ingenuity were requisite to bring a nation to such a degree of perfection and sublimity in the arts! and how many more of oblivion to cause these mighty productions to be forgotten, and to bring back the human race to the state of nature in which I now found

 them

them on this very ſpot! Never was there a place which concentered in a narrower compaſs the well-marked memorial of a progreſſive lapſe of ages. What unceaſing power, what riches, what abundance, what ſuperfluity of means muſt a government poſſeſs which could erect ſuch an edifice, and find within itſelf artiſts capable of conceiving and executing the deſign, of decorating and enriching it with every thing that ſpeaks to the eye and the underſtanding! Never did the labour of man ſhew me the human race in ſuch a ſplendid point of view: in the ruins of Tentyra the Egpytians appeared to me giants.

I wiſhed to take every thing on paper, but I could hardly venture to begin the work; I felt that, not being able to raiſe my powers to the height which was before my admiring eyes, I ſhould only ſhew the imperfection

of

of the imitative art; for in no place had I ever been ſurrounded with ſo many objects to elevate my imagination. Theſe monuments, which imprinted on the mind the reſpect due to the ſanctuary of the Divinity, were the open volumes, in which ſcience was nnfolded, morality dictated, and the uſeful arts promulgated; every thing ſpoke, every object was animated with the ſame mind. The opening of the doors, the angles, the moſt private receſs, ſtill preſented a leſſon, a precept of admirable harmony, and the lighteſt ornament on the graveſt feature of the architecture revealed, under living images, the abſtract truths of aſtronomy. Painting added a further charm to ſculpture and architecture, and produced at the ſame time an agreeable richneſs, which did not injure either the general ſimplicity or the gravity of the whole. To all appearance, painting,

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in Egypt, was then only an auxiliary ornament, and not a particular art: the ſculpture was emblematical, and, if I may ſo call it, architectural. Architecture, therefore, was the great art, or that which was dictated by utility, and we may from this circumſtance alone infer the priority, or at leaſt the ſuperior excellence of the Egyptian over the Indian art, ſince the former, borrowing nothing from the latter, has become the baſis of all that is the ſubject of admiration in modern art, and of what we have conſidered as excluſively belonging to architecture, the three Greek orders, the doric, ionic, and corinthian. We ſhould, therefore, be cautious of entertaining the falſe idea, which is ſo prevalent, that the Egyptian architecture is the infancy of this art, ſince it is in fact the compleat type.

I was particularly ſtruck with the beauty

of

of the gate which closed the sanctuary of the temple; all the ornaments which architecture has since added to this species of decoration, have only diminished the general style. (See Plate XIX.)

I could not expect to find any thing in Egypt more compleat, more perfect, than Tentyra; I was confused by the multiplicity of objects, astonished by their novelty, and tormented by the fear of never again visiting them. On casting my eyes on the ceilings I had perceived zodiacs, planetary systems, and celestial planispheres, represented in a tasteful arrangement; the walls I had observed to be covered with groups of pictures exhibiting the religious rites of this people, their labours in agriculture and the arts, and their moral precepts; I saw that the Supreme Being, the first cause, was every where depicted by the emblems of his

attributes; every thing was equally important for my pencil, and I had but a few hours to examine, to reflect on, and to copy what it had been the labour of ages to conceive, to put together, and to decorate. Our national impatience was dismayed with the conſtancy of application exhibited by the people who had executed theſe monuments; throughout was ſhewn equal care, and equal aſſiduity, which would make one believe that theſe edifices were not the works of their kings, but that they were conſtructed at the expence of the nation, under the direction of colleges of prieſts, and by artiſts whoſe labours were circumſcribed by invariable rules. A ſeries of years might, indeed, have brought the arts to a higher degree of perfection in ſome particulars; but each temple is ſo equally finiſhed in all its parts, that they appear all to have

been

been executed by the ſame hand; no one portion is better or worſe than any other; there appears neither negligence nor the bold ſtrokes of a more exalted genius, uniformity and harmony prevail throughout. The art of ſculpture, here made ſubſervient and attached to that of architecture, appears to have been circumſcribed in principle, in method, and in ſtyle of execution; a ſingle figure expreſſes nothing, when taken out of its exact ſtation in the group in which it is a part; the ſculptor had his deſign chalked out for him, and could not introduce any deviation which might alter the true meaning that it was intended to convey: it was with theſe figures as with the cards that we uſe for our games, the imperfection of deſign is overlooked, that no obſtacle may ariſe in inſtantly diſtinguiſhing the value of each. The perfection given by the Egyptians

tians to the repreſentations of their animals, proves that they were not without an idea of that bold ſtyle which expreſſes much character in a few lines, and their execution tended to the grave, and to ideal perfection, as we have already remarked in the inſtance of the ſphinx.

As to the character of the human figure, as they borrowed nothing from other nations, they could only copy from their own, which is rather delicate than fine. The female forms, however, reſemble the figure of beautiful women of the preſent day, round and voluptuous, a ſmall noſe, the eyes long, half ſhut, and turned up at the outer angle, like thoſe of all perſons whoſe ſight is habitually fatigued by the burning heat of the ſun, or the dazzling white of ſnow; the cheeks round and rather thick, the lips pouting, the mouth large, but cheerful and

ſmiling;

ſmiling; in ſhort, the African character, of which the negro is the exaggerated picture, though perhaps the original type.

The hieroglyphics, which are executed in three different manners, are alſo of three ſpecies, and may take their date from as many diſtinct periods. From the examination of the different edifices which have fallen under my eye, I imagine that the moſt ancient of theſe characters are only ſimple outlines cut in without relief, and very deep; the next in age, and which produce the leaſt effect, are ſimply in a very ſhallow relief; and the third, which ſeem to belong to a more improved age, and are executed at Tentyra more perfectly than in any other part of Egypt, are in relief below the level of the outline. By the ſide of the figures which compoſe theſe tabular pieces of ſculpture, there are ſmall hieroglyphics,

which appear to be only the explanation of the ſubjects at large, and in which the forms are much ſimplified, ſo as to give a more rapid mode of inſcription, or a kind of *ſhort-hand*, if we may apply the term to ſculpture.

A fourth kind of hieroglyphics appears to be devoted ſimply to ornament: we have improperly termed it, I know not why, the *arabeſque*. It was adopted by the Greeks, and in the age of Auguſtus was introduced among the Romans; and in the fifteenth century, during the reſtoration of the arts, it was tranſmitted by them to us as a fantaſtic decoration, the peculiar taſte of which formed all its merit. Among the Egyptians, who employed theſe ornaments with equal taſte, every object had a meaning or a moral, and at the ſame time formed the decoration of the friezes, the cornices, and the ſur-baſements of their architecture; as an example of which, ſee Fig. 1. Plate XI.

I have discovered at Tentyra the representations of the peristyles of temples in caryatides, which are executed in painting at the baths of Titus, and have been copied by Raphael, and which we constantly ape in our rooms, without suspecting that the Egyptians have given us the first models of them.

With my pencil in my hand, I passed from object to object, distracted from one by the inviting appearance of the next; constantly attracted to new subjects, and again torn from them, I wanted eyes, hands, and intelligence vast enough to see, copy, and reduce to some order, the multitude of striking images which presented themselves before me. I was ashamed at representing such sublime objects by such imperfect designs, but I wished to preserve some memorial of the sensations which I here experienced, and

I feared

I feared that Tentyra would efcape from me for ever; fo that my regret equalled my prefent enjoyment. I had juft difcovered, in a fmall apartment, a celeftial planifphere, when the laft rays of day-light made me perceive that I was alone here, along with my kind and obliging friend General Beliard, who, after having fatisfied his own curiofity, would not leave me unprotected in fo deferted a fpot.

We galloped on, and regained our divifion, which was already at Dindera, three quarters of a league off Tentyra, where we flept. Every foldier, every officer, without giving or receiving orders, had turned afide from the route, and haftened to Tentyra; and the army had of their own accord remained there the reft of the day—a day of fuch pleafure, as to reward me for every danger incurred to obtain fuch a gratification.

In the evening, Latournerie, an officer of brilliant courage, and of a refined and delicate taſte, ſaid to me: " Since I have been in " Egypt deceived in all my expectations, I " have been conſtantly heavy and melan- " choly, but Tentyra has cured me; what I " have ſeen this day has repaid me for all " my fatigues; whatever happens to me in " the event of this expedition, I ſhall all " my life congratulate myſelf at having em- " barked in it, to have obtained the remem- " brance of this day, which I ſhall preſerve " all the reſt of my exiſtence."

CHAP-

CHAPTER XII.

Crocodiles in the River—Aſtoniſhing Effect of the firſt Approach to Thebes—General Site of the Monuments and the Necropolis—Coloſſal Statues of Memnon and Oſymandyas—Names of eminent Viſitors inſcribed—Palace at Medinet-Abu—Singular Tamariſk Tree—Sudden Contraction of the Nile—Beautiful Portico at Eſneh or Latopolis—Hieraconpolis—Etfu—Firſt View of Apollinopolis Magna—Haraſſing March through the Deſert—Village of Binban, and affecting Incident.

WE quitted Dindera on the 26th of January, continuing our route ſouthwards, following the direction of the Nile, in a courſe oppoſite to its current. The country

country now exhibited a new ſcenery to our eyes: we ſaw palm-trees much larger than any which we had hitherto met with, gigantic tamariſks, villages half a league long, and yet the land, which had received the benefit of the inundation, remained uncultivated. Could it be that the inhabitants choſe to grow no more than was ſufficient for their own conſumption, and thus deprive their tyrants of the profit of their ſuperfluity? In the afternoon, as Deſaix and myſelf were talking about crocodiles, being near that part of the Nile where they were met with, and oppoſite ſeveral low ſand iſlands, their favourite reſort, we ſaw ſomething long and brown lying among a number of ducks; it was a crocodile aſleep; he appeared about fifteen or eighteen feet long. We fired on him, and he gently entered the water, but ſome minutes after came out again; a ſe-

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cond ſhot made him again plunge in, but he again returned to the iſland; his belly appeared much larger than that of animals of the ſame ſpecies, which I have ſeen ſtuffed.

We learned that one party of the Mamelukes had paſſed along the right bank of the river, and that the other continued their route to Eſneh and Syene. Deſaix ordered the cavalry to ſet out at midnight to endeavour to come up with theſe latter.

We ſet out on the 27th, at two in the morning: at eight we found a dead crocodile on the ſhore of the river; it was ſtill freſh; the length was eight feet: the upper jaw, which is the only one that has any motion, ſeems to cloſe but indifferently with the under, but the throat ſupplies the deficiency, for it hangs as looſe as a purſe, and its elaſticity performs the office of a tongue, of which

which this animal is entirely destitute; the nostrils and ears shut like the ear-holes of a fish, and its small close-set eyes add much to the frightfulness of its general appearance.

At nine o'clock, in making a sharp turn round the point of a projecting chain of mountains, we discovered all at once the site of the ancient Thebes in its whole extent: this celebrated city, the size of which Homer has characterized by the single expression of *with a hundred gates*, a boasting and poetical phrase, that has been repeated with so much confidence for many centuries; this illustrious city, described in a few pages dictated to Herodotus by Egyptian priests, that have been since copied by every historian, celebrated by the number of its kings, whose wisdom has raised them to the rank of gods, by laws which have been revered without being promulgated, by science in-

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volved in pompous and enigmatical inſcriptions, the firſt monuments of ancient learning which are ſtill ſpared by the hand of time; this abandoned ſanctuary, ſurrounded with barbariſm, and again reſtored to the deſert from which it had been drawn forth, enveloped in the veil of myſtery, and the obſcurity of ages, whereby even its own coloſſal monuments are magnified to the imagination, ſtill impreſſed the mind with ſuch gigantic phantoms, that the whole army, ſuddenly and with one accord, ſtood in amazement at the ſight of its ſcattered ruins, and clapped their hands with delight, as if the end and object of their glorious toils, and the complete conqueſt of Egypt, were accompliſhed and ſecured by taking poſſeſſion of the ſplendid remains of this ancient metropolis. I took a view of this firſt aſpect of Thebes, along with the ſpectacle before me;

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the knees of the enthusiastic soldiers served me as a table, their bodies as a shade, whilst the dazzling rays of the burning sun enlightened this magnificent spectacle, and exhibited the electric emotion of a whole army of soldiers, whose delicate sensibility made me feel proud of being their companion, and glory in calling myself a Frenchman.

The situation of this town is as fine as can well be imagined; and the immense extent of its ruins convinces the spectator that fame has not magnified its size; for the diameter of Egypt not being sufficient to contain it, its monuments rest upon the two chains of mountains which are contiguous, whilst its tombs occupy the vallies towards the west, far on into the desert.

Four large hamlets divide amongst them the remains of the ancient monuments of Thebes, whilst the river, by the sinuosity of

its courſe, ſeems ſtill proud of flowing among its ruins.

Soon after noon day we arrived at a deſert, which was the necropolis or city of the dead: the rock, excavated on its inclined plane, preſents three ſides of a ſquare, with regular openings, behind which are double and triple galleries, which were uſed as burying places. (See Plate XXI. Fig. 2.) I entered here on horſeback, with Deſaix, ſuppoſing that theſe gloomy retreats could only be the aſylum of peace and ſilence; but ſcarcely were we immerged in the obſcurity of theſe galleries, than we were aſſailed with javelins and ſtones, by enemies whom we could not diſtinguiſh, and this put an end to our obſervations. We ſince learnt that a conſiderable number of people inhabited theſe obſcure retreats, and that probably, from the ſavage habits contracted there,

there, they were almoſt always in rebellion with authority, and had become the terror of the vicinity. Too much in haſte to make a fuller acquaintance with the inhabitants, we marched back with precipitation, and this time I only ſaw Thebes on the gallop.

It had been my lot to ſtay for months at Zaoyeh, at Beneſuef and Girgeh, and to paſs by without ſtopping at the magnificent objects which I had come to viſit. We arrived preſently after at a temple, which I took to be of the higheſt antiquity, from its ruinous appearance, its thorough antique hue, its conſtruction, which was leſs perfect than the reſt, the extreme ſimplicity of its ornaments, the irregularity of its outline, and eſpecially the coarſeneſs of its ſculpture. I took a haſty ſketch of it, (as repreſented in Plate XXII. Fig. 2.) and galloping after the troops, who were conſtantly marching on, I

arrived at a ſecond edifice much more conſiderable, and in a better ſtate of preſervation. I found in my way a ſtatue of black granite; I call it granite, till it ſhall be determined what is the nature of that ſtone which has been long denominated baſalt, and which is the material of the magnificent Egyptian lions, which are at the foot of the flight of ſteps leading to the Roman capitol. (See Plate XXIII.)

At the entrance of this temple two ſquare mounds flank an immenſe gate, and againſt the inner wall are engraved in two bas-reliefs, the victorious combats of ſome hero. This piece of ſculpture is in the moſt irregular ſtyle of compoſition, without perſpective, plan, or diſtribution, like the firſt conceptions of the unimproved human mind. I have ſeen at Pompeia rude ſketches done by Roman ſoldiers on the ſtucco of the walls; they

they entirely refembled in ftyle thofe which I am now fpeaking of, which are like the firft attempts of a child, before he has feen any thing whereby to arrange his ideas. Here the hero is gigantic, and the enemies whom he is overthrowing are twenty-five times fmaller than himfelf; if this however could be meant for a piece of flattery in the arts, it was certainly ill-contrived, fince the hero could gain no honour by fighting pygmies.

At fome paces from this gate are the remains of an enormous coloffus; it has been wantonly fhattered, for the parts which are left have fo well preferved their polifh, and the fractures their edges, that it is evident, if the fpirit of devaftation in mankind had trufted to time alone to ruin this monument, we fhould ftill fee it entire and uninjured. Suffice it to fay, to give an idea of its dimenfions, that the breadth of the fhoulders is

twenty-

twenty-five feet, which would give about ſeventy-five for the entire height: the figure is exact in its proportions, the ſtyle middling, but the execution perfect; when overſet, it fell upon its face, which hides this intereſting part; the drapery being broken, we can no longer judge by its attributes whether it is the figure of a king or a divinity. Is it the ſtatue of Memnon, or that of Oſymandyas?—the deſcriptions hitherto given of this monument throw more confuſion than light upon this queſtion. If it is the ſtatue of Memnon, which appears to me the more probable, every traveller for two thouſand years muſt have miſtaken the object of their curioſity, as will be ſeen by the inſcription of the names on another coloſſal ſtatue, of which I ſhall directly ſpeak.

One foot of this ſtatue remains, which is broken off and in good preſervation; it may

be eaſily carried away, and may give thoſe in Europe a ſcale of compariſon of the monuments of this ſpecies, and will ſerve as a companion to the coloſſal feet which are in the court of the capitol at Rome. The ſpot where this figure ſtood might be either a temple or a palace, or both at the ſame time; for if the bas-relief would belong more properly to a royal reſidence, the figures of eight prieſts, which are in the front of two porticoes in the inner part, would peculiarly indicate a temple, except indeed they were introduced to remind the ſovereign that, conformably to the law, the prieſts ought always to ſerve and aſſiſt in the exercife of monarchical power.

This ruin, which is ſituated on the ſlope of the mountain, and has never been inhabited in later times, is ſo well preſerved in the parts that are ſtill ſtanding, that it appears more like

like a new and unfiniſhed building: ſeveral columns are ſeen here to their very baſes, their proportions are grand, but the ſtyle, though purer than that of the firſt mentioned temple, is however not comparable to that of Tentyra, either for the majeſty of the general deſign, nor for the delicacy in the execution of particular parts. It would have taken ſome time and examination to have made out the plan of this temple, but the cavalry were galloping on, and I was obliged to follow them cloſely, not to be ſtopped for ever in my reſearches.

Our attention was arreſted in the plain by two large ſtatues in a ſitting poſture, between which, according to Herodotus, Strabo, and thoſe who have copied the relation of theſe writers, was the famous ſtatue of Oſymandyas, the largeſt of all theſe coloſſal figures. Oſymandyas had prided himſelf ſo much on the

the execution of this bold deſign, that he had cauſed an inſcription to be engraven on the pedeſtal of the ſtatue, in which he defied the power of man to deſtroy this monument, as well as that of his tomb, the pompous deſcription of which now appears only a fantaſtic dream. The two ſtatues ſtill left ſtanding, are doubtleſs thoſe of the mother and the ſon of this prince, mentioned by Herodotus: that of the king himſelf has diſappeared, the hand of time and the teeth of envy appear to have united zealouſly in its deſtruction, and nothing of it remains but a ſhapeleſs rock of granite; ſo that it requires the perſevering look of the amateur, accuſtomed to this kind of examination, to diſtinguiſh any portions of the figure which have eſcaped deſtruction; and even thoſe are ſo inſignificant, that they can throw no light on its dimenſions. The two ſtatues ſtill ex-

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iſting are in the proportion of from fifty to ſixty-five feet in height; they are ſeated with their two hands on their knees; all that remains of them ſhews a ſeverity of ſtyle, and a ſtraightneſs of poſition. The bas-reliefs and the ſmall figures cluſtered round the ſeat of the ſouthernmoſt of theſe ſtatues, are not without elegance and delicacy in the execution. On the leg of the ſtatue the moſt to the north, the names of the illuſtrious and ancient travellers who came to hear the ſound of the ſtatue of Memnon are written in Greek. We may here ſee the great influence which celebrity exerciſes over the minds of men, ſince, when the ancient Egyptian government and the jealouſy of the prieſts no longer forbade ſtrangers to touch theſe monuments, the love of the marvellous retained its empire over the minds of thoſe that came hither as viſitors. Thus, in the

age of Adrian, which was enlightened by philoſophy, Sabina, the wife of this emperor, and herſelf a literary woman, condeſcended, along with the learned men who accompanied her, to acknowledge that ſhe had heard ſounds which no phyſical cauſe could have produced. But the vanity of inſcribing one's name on ſuch antiquities might very eaſily have produced the firſt on the liſt, and the natural deſire of becoming an aſſociate in this kind of glory might have added the reſt; and this is doubtleſs the reaſon of the numberleſs inſcriptions of names which we find here, with ſo many dates, and in ſo many languages. (See Plate XXIII.)

I had hardly begun to draw theſe coloſſal figures, when I found that I was left alone with theſe ſtupendous originals, and the ideas which theſe ſolitary objects inſpired. Being alarmed at my unprotected ſituation, I haſtened

tened to rejoin my comrades, whofe eager curiofity had already led them to a large temple near the village of Medinet-Abu. I obferved as I paffed by, that the ground about the tomb of Ofymandyas was cultivated, and that confequently the inundation reached as far; fo that although the bed of the Nile was raifed, there muft formerly have been fome dyke to prevent the water from flooding part of the ancient town, which, when we croffed it, was a vaft field of green wheat, promifing an abundant harveft.

At the right, adjoining the village of Medinet-Abu, at the bottom of the mountain, is a vaft palace, built and enlarged at different periods. All that I could make of it in this my firft examination on horfeback, was, that the lower part of this palace which abuts againft the mountain, is the moft ancient in its conftruction, and is covered with hiero-

glyphics, cut very deep and without any relief; and that, in the fourth century, the catholic religion converted it to ſacred purpoſes, and made a church of it, adding two rows of pillars in the ſtyle of the age, to ſupport a covered roof. At the ſouth of this monument there are Egyptian apartments, with ladders and ſquare windows, the only building I had yet ſeen here which was not a temple; and beyond this are edifices rebuilt with old materials, but left unfiniſhed. The firſt eagerneſs of curioſity being ſatisfied, Deſaix led us off at full gallop, as if there had been Mamelukes on the plain, and we went two long leagues farther that night, till we got to Hermontes, where we ſlept, and for my ſhare I was lodged in a temple.

After diſmounting, I profited by the ſmall remains of day-light to take a figure of Typhon or Anubis. This was ſo often repeated

 in

in the temple where I took up my abode, that I concluded that the whole was dedicated to him. He is reprefented ftanding up, with a belly like a pig, and breafts fimilar to thofe of the Egyptian women of the prefent day. Two hundred yards to the eaft of this temple is a large refervoir lined with fine ftone, with four ladders for defcending into it.

Four hundred yards further, in the fame direction, are the ruins of a church, built in the fourth or fifth century, out of the ruins of the fineft Egyptian antiquities: the nave was decorated with fplendid columns of granite, but the whole is overthrown, and nothing is left ftanding but a few fragments of the choir, and the arches of the outer enclofure: this deftruction is by the hand of man, for the church was too well built not to have refifted the wear of time to the prefent day.

At

At night I returned to my quarters, with my head confufed by the profufion of objects which had paffed before my eyes in fo fhort a fpace of time. I felt as if I had been in a dream during the whole of this rich day; and, indeed, I could have found delicious and abundant food for curiofity for a whole month, in feeing what I had been obliged to pafs over in twelve hours, without too having it in my power to devote any part of the fucceeding day to reflection.

In the morning of the 28th, I faw a tamarifk of an enormous fize planted on the bank of the Nile: it had been loofened at the roots by progreffive inundations, and at laft overthrown; the greater number of its roots had ranged themfelves upright, and produced leaves; the old branches on which the tree had fallen were fixed in the earth, and ferved as a footftool, fo that the enormous trunk,

which remained ſuſpended horizontally, by a confuſion in the ſyſtem of circulation, vegetated in every direction, and gave it ſuch a groteſque appearance, that the Turks had not failed to make a miracle of this vegetable monſter, which I ſhould have drawn if I had not at that time been much behind my diviſion, and it would have required a good deal of accuracy to have given a faithful idea of this phenomenon.

At our halt we found another contraction of the Nile. The Lybian chain, turning ſuddenly towards the eaſt, forces the Nile againſt the Arabian chain. The river, contracted between theſe two obſtacles, has overcome the one which offered the leaſt reſiſtance, and the current has in its various ſwells undermined and worn through a bed of gravel, which oppoſed its courſe, below the level of the baſe of the Lybian bank; the

upper

upper part, thus deprived of ſupport, has torn itſelf off by its weight from the adjoining portion of the hill, and the rent has formed two projecting points of rock. This rock, which is called Gibelin, or the Two Mountains, ſerves as a boundary to one of the ſubdiviſions of Upper Egypt; and under the late government became a barrier for the rebel beys, who were baniſhed into Upper Saïd, a barrier which the exiles could not paſs without becoming out of the protection of the law. Some years back, Oſman-Bey, after being ſent to Coſſeir, accompanied with men who were ſecretly charged to murder him, inſtead of embarking him for Mecca, to which place he was ſentenced to be exiled, prevented the plans of his aſſaſſins, poſſeſſed himſelf of the veſſel, which was richly laden, eſcaped into Upper Egypt, and aſſembled a party of Mamelukes in his

favour, who obliged Murad to come to terms, and to cede to him the ſovereignty of all the country between Gibelin and Syene.

After this contraction of the channel of the Nile, the valley expands, without, however, our obſerving any improvement in the agriculture. We ſaw large plains, worn by the current of the waters, which were in vain waiting for the ſeed which they would have returned to the cultivator with a vaſt encreaſe.

On the 29th, we arrived early in the morning at Eſneh, the laſt town of any importance in Egypt. Murad had been obliged to evacuate it a few hours before the arrival of our cavalry, and to burn here a number of his tents and all his heavy baggage, which would encumber and ſlacken his march. We therefore had reaſon to ſuppoſe that he

was

was determined to quit Egypt, and to bury himſelf in Nubia, in the hope of wearying us out, and dividing our forces; for as the country affords no reſources for the ſupply of a large body of men marching together, he might hope to be able here to rally his forces, and to advance through the deſert to attack our detachments.

Eſneh is the ancient Latopolis. Some remains are ſtill viſible of its port or quay on the bank of the Nile, which has been often repaired, but, notwithſtanding all that has been done for it, ſtill remains in a very miſerable condition. This town alſo contains the portico of a temple, which appears to me to be the moſt perfect monument of ancient architecture. It is ſituated near the bazar in the great ſquare, and would make an incomparable ornament to this ſpot, if the inhabitants had any idea of its merit; but

inſtead of this they have deformed it by the moſt miſerable ruined hovels, and have devoted it to the vileſt purpoſes. The portico is very well preſerved, and poſſeſſes a reat richneſs of ſculpture: it is compoſed of eighteen columns with broad capitals; theſe columns are noble and elegant, though they now appear in the moſt diſadvantageous light; the rubbiſh ſhould be cleared to find if any part of the *cella* remains; I took the beſt plan and elevation that I could of this monument. (See Plates XXVI, Fig. 2, and XXVII.)

The hieroglyphics in relief, with which it is covered within and without, are executed with great care; they contain, among other ſubjects, a zodiac, and large figures of men with crocodiles' heads: the capitals, though all different, have a very fine effect; and as an additional proof that the Egyptians bor-

rowed

rowed nothing from other people, we may remark, that they have taken all the ornaments, of which these capitals are composed, from the productions of their own country, such as the lotus, the palm-tree, the vine, the rush, &c. &c. I did not quit this temple till it was absolutely necessary to pursue our route: we left half our infantry and our artillery at Esneh, in order to march with less incumbrance through a country, the resources of which were diminishing every league, and soon dwindled to little or nothing. We slept three leagues and a half short of Esneh.

On the 30th, after marching three hours, we found, three-quarters of a league off the river, on the edge of the desert, a small pyramid, fifty or sixty feet in the base, built with unhewn stones, but too small to have been able to preserve their place, and thus

the

the facing has been ſhattered from top to bottom.

At half after two, a little before our arrival at Etfu, we found the ruins of Hieraconpolis, which conſiſt of the remains of a gate belonging to an edifice of conſiderable magnitude; to judge by the ſize of the ſtones, the extent of ground occupied by the fragments, and the diameter of the defaced capitals, which are ſeen ſcattered on every ſide. The ſtone of which this temple is built, is of ſo friable a quality, that the form of the edifice is entirely loſt, and none of the plan can be made out. Some yards further the ruins of another building can with difficulty be diſtinguiſhed, owing to the great decay; the other remains of the town are only a few heaps of highly burnt bricks and ſome blocks of granite.

We ſaw on the other ſide of the river, two

hundred Mamelukes come down along with their attendants and equipage; we learnt ſince, that it was Edfey-Bey, who being wounded at Samanhut, had not choſen to paſs the cataracts with the other beys We were ſtruck with admiration at the fine and advantageous ſite of Apollinopolis Magna; it commanded the river and the whole valley of Egypt; and its magnificent temple towered over the reſt like a large citadel, which keeps the adjacent country in awe. This compariſon is, indeed, ſo naturally ſuggeſted by the ſituation of this edifice, that it is only known to the natives by the name of *the Fortreſs*. I foreſaw with regret that we ſhould only enter the town late, and quit it early in the morning. I puſhed on to gain a little time to examine it before the daylight entirely left us. During this viſit, I had only time to ride round this edifice, the extent,

extent, majeſty, magnificence, and high preſervation of which, ſurpaſſed all that I had yet ſeen in Egypt, or elſewhere ; it made an impreſſion on me as vaſt as its own gigantic dimenſions. This building is a long ſuite of pyramidal gates, of courts decorated with galleries, of porticoes, and of covered naves, conſtructed, not with common ſtones, but entire rocks. Night was come on before I had time to viſit the whole of this ſurprizing monument, and I again regretted the neceſſity which I lay under to paſs over with ſo much rapidity what merited ſuch high admiration. The excellent preſervation of this ancient edifice forms a wonderful contraſt with the grey ruins of modern habitations built within its vaſt encloſure ; a part of the population of this village is contained in huts built in the courts, and around the fragments of the temple ; which, like ſwal-

lows

lows nefts in our houfes, defile them without concealing or injuring their general appearance. Befides, this fingular medley, that at firft fight hurts the eye, produces a picturefque contraft, which at once gives a fcale of comparifon, both for men and for the lapfe of time; and after all, we have no right to think it abfurd for ignorant people to fhelter their feeble huts againft fplendid objects, which have never once attracted their curiofity, whilft in France we fuffer the amphitheatre of Nifmes to remain encumbered with hovels and heaps of rubbifh.

Below Etfu, the cultivated country grows very narrow; fo that there is only a quarter of a league in breadth between the defert and the river. At noon we halted on the banks of the Nile: the cavalry had gone before us, but at the moment when we were fetting out, we learnt that we had a defert

of ſeven leagues to croſs; the day was too far advanced to allow us to undertake ſo long a march, and we therefore ſtopped the reſt of the evening in a deſolated village, where fortunately we found wood.

On the 31ſt, we continued our march at three in the morning. After paſſing for an hour through a cultivated country, we entered the deſert by a mountain compoſed of decayed ſlate, free-ſtone, white and roſe-coloured quartz, and brown flint, with ſeveral white cornelians. After marching five hours in the deſert, our ſoldiers had their ſhoes torn, and were obliged to put what linen they could about their feet, and were tormented with a burning thirſt. No water could be found but in the Nile, which was a league out of our way, for the banks were as arid as the deſert; but the urgency of thirſt prevailed, and we arrived at the river ex-

hauſted

haufted with fatigue; but the camp equipage, the draft animals of which had had no food the night before, were fo weakened by hunger, that but a few of them were able to follow. What was the general diftrefs when it was announced that there was nothing to eat! We looked at each other in mute confternation: but, after a while, a camel with a light load of butter came up, and fome others, whofe provifion-facks had been already emptied; but by fhaking out every duft of meal from the bags, and rummaging every corner, we found enough to make a diftribution of a handful of flour to each: directly we got firing from a neighbouring tree, made our flour into fritters, employment drove away our gloomy ideas, and French gaiety foon prevailed, and reftored our ufual courage. We fet out again brifkly after our refrefhment; but our poor horfes,

 who

who had not regaled upon fritters, fell down from under us through inanition; we could do nothing but lead and ſupport them with our hands, or elſe we muſt have abandoned them; in ſhort, we were compelled to march, and our neceſſity alone made it practicable, and many are the reſources contained in this ſingle word, neceſſity.

Half an hour after we had paſſed the firſt deſert, we came to the ruins of Silſilis, which conſiſt of broken fragments, bricks, and the remains of a temple, the higheſt walls of which are now not more than three feet above the ſoil. One can juſt diſcover that the nave of the temple, which is covered with hieroglyphics, was ſurrounded with a gallery, to which, in a latter period, a portico without hieroglyphics has been added. We returned a third time into the deſert; a hyena followed the column for a conſiderable time.

The rocks here become granite, with flints of every colour and ſpecies, whoſe hardneſs would render them ſuſceptible of a high poliſh: I alſo found there cornelian, jaſper, and ſerpentine: the ſand is formed of ſmall fragments, of all the primitive and conſtituent parts of the granite. We arrived at an elevated ſtage of the mountain, where we diſcovered a vaſt extent of country, through which the Nile flows in a winding courſe: this river, after running along the Mokatem, returns to the north-weſt, and again changes its courſe to north. At this angle the ruins of a pharos may be perceived, which perhaps ſerved as a light-houſe for this winding channel; at the other angle the heights of Ombos may be ſeen, with the fine monuments on its ſummit; at the elbow of the river one of its branches forms an inundated iſland, which, from this circum-

 ſtance

ſtance alone, is worth more than twenty ſquare leagues of the neighbouring country, and its ſituation protects it from the incurſion of the Mamelukes, as it did now from our viſit. The inhabitants of the ſhore retired to it on our approach, abandoning to us the large village of Binban, which ſkirts the deſert, and is equally gloomy in appearance. Here we arrived, after marching eleven hours. The drove of oxen which followed us had gone aſtray, and we had to wait for it, with the conſtant fear of its being carried off. The village offered us nothing but a few walls, which we ranſacked to the very foundation. I here was witneſs to a ſcene which preſented a ſtriking contraſt of ſavage brutality and the kindeſt ſenſibility.

Whilſt I was looking at our people, whoſe neceſſities were as ingenious in bringing to light, as the care of the natives had been to conceal,

conceal, a ſoldier comes out of a cave, dragging after him a ſhe-goat, which he had forced out; he is followed by an old man, carrying two young infants, who ſets them down on the ground, falls on his knees, and, without ſpeaking a word, points, with tears in his eyes, to the young children, who muſt periſh if the goat is taken away from them. But want, which is both deaf and blind to other's diſtreſs, does not ſtay his murderous hand for any entreaty, and the goat is killed. At the ſame moment, another ſoldier comes up, holding in his arms another child, whoſe mother doubtleſs had been obliged to deſert it in her flight from us; and this brave fellow, notwithſtanding the weight of his muſket, his cartridges, his knapſack, and the fatigue of four days of forced marches, had picked up this little forſaken creature, had carried it carefully for two leagues in his

arms, and, not knowing what to do with it in this deſerted village, ſeeing one inhabitant left behind, with two children, he gently lays down his little charge beſide them, and departs, with the delightful expreſſion of one who has juſt performed a benevolent action.

CHAP.

CHAPTER XIII.

Gazelles in the Desert—Approach to Syene—Beautiful View of the Island of Elephantina—Syene, and the Frontiers of Upper Egypt—Quarters of the Army—Temple of Cneph, and other Monuments of Elephantina—Trade of Syene—Encounter of the French Cavalry with Assan-Bey—Carved Blocks of Granite—Cataracts of the Nile—Island of Philoë—Ethiopian Village, and its Inhabitants.

OUR march on this day, February 1, offered new deserts to our eye. We found the rocks to consist alternately of granite and decomposed free-stone, forming a brittle friable crust, like scoria. In the val-

lies in which the ſand abounds, the ſurface is ſmooth and tender like ſnow, ſo that the tracks of animals are perceived with the utmoſt eaſe, and one can eaſily make out thoſe that have paſſed ſince the laſt wind. The moſt frequent prints of feet that one meets with are thoſe of the gazelle, a beautiful little animal, which is ſo ſhy and timid, that after having taken its food on the banks of the river, it retires to conceal its fears in the ſilence of the deſert. It gives one a melancholy reflection to remark, that a beaſt of prey always follows the ſteps of this elegant and ſprightly animal, the vaſt ſpace of the deſert does not ſecure it againſt rapacity. I ſaw this day two of theſe animals, who were of the moſt delicate and elegant ſpecies of this numerous family. We marched ſlowly and painfully, ſtopping every minute to pull off our ſhoes and to take breath. In the

afternoon,

afternoon, I found in the middle of the desert the trace of a grand antique road, bounded with large masses of cut stone which led in a straight line to Syene. In the afternoon the troops were so much fatigued, that on quitting the desert we halted at the first green spot which would afford food for our horses; I thought they would never be dragged from the place, nor our men again raised from the ground; as to myself I was quite wearied out, and remained all the night there, as if rivetted to the soil. The next day, we had but three quarters of a league to march, to rejoin our cavalry, which had only gone before to eat up all the country would afford, before our arrival; at last, however, we were in sight of Assuan or Syene, the object of our destination. The soldier now forgot his fatigues, as if he had already arrived at the promised land, not remembering

that, to return to a country of abundance, he muſt again croſs the ſame painful deſert which he had juſt left behind him; but the paſt is nothing to the ſoldier, when he can ſnatch a little preſent gratification. For myſelf, however, I had the moſt reaſon to be ſatisfied, ſince I was going for the firſt time in my life, to ſit down and take a little breathing time in this country, which abounded with intereſting objects for my reſearches.

The firſt good news that we learned, was, that the Mamelukes had not burned the boats, which they could not get over the cataracts. In the morning I aſcended to the convent of St. Lawrence, which is but an indifferent ruin. Above is a watch-tower, from the lofty ſummit of which a moſt ſingular view preſents itſelf to the eye; it ſeems to be the end of the world, or rather a chaos,

from

from which the air has already ſeparated, and the watery element appears to guſh from the earth, running in numerous channels, which promiſe fertility to nature. The firſt effects of its bounties are ſeen around the granite rocks, in the hollows of which the ſand and ſlime brought by the waves are depoſited, forming a baſis for vegetation, which continues to encreaſe, and to embrace a larger and wider field. At Elephantina, the cultivation, the trees, and the habitations, exhibit a picture of perfection in the gifts of nature, which has given riſe to the Arabian name of Keziret-el-Sag, or *the Flowery Iſland*, for this iſland. I took a drawing of the country, which is a kind of bird's eye chart. (See Plate XXX. Fig. 1.)

On the third of February we croſſed over to the right bank of the river, to take poſſeſſion of Aſſuan or Syene. Murad-Bey had paſſed

paſſed the cataracts and divided his force over a conſiderable tract of country, in order to find ſubſiſtence for his Mamelukes and their horſes. We were obliged to do the ſame with ours.

On the fifth, Deſaix ſet out with the cavalry to go in queſt of Elfy-Bey, whom we had left behind us at the right bank of the Nile. I had not quitted Deſaix ſince we left Cairo, and I feel ſome pride in ſaying, that the moment of parting was attended with mutual regret; we had ſpent together ſo many agreeable hours, riding a foot's pace ſide by ſide for twelve or fifteen hours ſucceſſively, not in idle chat, but in waking dreams, and often after ſuch long marches we ſaid to each other: "How many things ſhall "we have to talk of during the reſt of our "lives!" How many wiſe ideas on civil government, and philanthropy ſuggeſted them-

ſelves

ſelves to his mind, when the ſound of the trumpet and the roll of the drum ceaſed to give him the fever of war! How many intereſting remarks would his inexhauſtible memory now furniſh me with, could I conſult it! With what intereſt would he regard this work and patronize it as his own! In quitting me for a ſhort period, he ſeemed to try to accuſtom me by degrees to a laſting ſeparation.

I went with General Beliard to take poſſeſſion of the government of Syene. During my reſidence in or near this town the explanation of my drawings will ſupply the place of a journal.

The firſt view which I took is that which I have juſt deſcribed, namely, a kind of bird's eye chart, in which, at one glance the reader may ſee the general aſpect of the country, the entrance of the Nile into Egypt,

after flowing over the wall of granite blocks which forms its laſt cataracts, the iſland of Elephantina, between Contra-Syene and Syene, and the monuments of this latter town, in which may be diſtinguiſhed the different periods of its exiſtence. The ruins of the higheſt antiquity may be eaſily recognized; it muſt then have been a very conſiderable city, if the edifices on the right and left of the Nile and thoſe of Elephantina formed but one town, which may be preſumed, ſince they are only ſeparated by a river that in this place is deep but not broad; the Arabic ruins are grouped on a rock to the eaſtward; below are Roman remains, which are alſo found in ſome of the monuments at Elephantina, and to all this ſucceeds a large village, built in a better ſtyle, and with ſtraighter ſtreets than in common villages, which may be attributed to the

plenty

plenty of ſtone and of ancient materials. In the middle is a Turkiſh caſtle, commanded on all ſides, and which can be no real defence.

Our firſt employment was to get comfortably ſettled. We had very good quarters; it was the houſe of the kiachef, built of ſtone, with an upper ſtory, terraces, and vaulted rooms: we here made beds, tables, and ſtools, and I found it a high luxury to undreſs myſelf, to ſit and to lie down: our ſoldiers did the ſame. The ſecond day of our eſtabliſhment there were already in the ſtreets of Syene, tailors, ſhoe-makers, jewellers, French barbers with their poles, eating-houſes, and *reſtaurateurs*, all at a fixed price.

The ſtation of an army offers a picture of the moſt rapid exerciſe of every reſource that induſtry can furniſh; every individual ſets all

his

his abilities to work for the general advantage; but, what peculiarly characterizes a French army is, to eſtabliſh ſuperfluities and amuſements at the ſame time and with the ſame care as neceſſaries; thus we had gardens and coffee-houſes, in which we amuſed ourſelves in games with cards manufactured at Syene. At one entrance of the village is a walk with ſtraight rows of trees pointing to the north; our ſoldiers here ſet up a mileſtone with this inſcription, *Route de Paris, No. onze, cent ſoixante ſept milles trois cents quarante*; it was ſome days, after having received a diſtribution of dates for their whole ration, that they entertained ſuch pleaſant or philoſophic ideas. Nothing but death can put a period to valour combined with gaiety, the greateſt misfortunes can do nothing towards it.

On this ſide of the river there are no

other

other remains of the Egyptian town, than a ſmall ſquare temple ſurrounded with a gallery, but ſo ſhattered and ſhapeleſs, that nothing can be ſeen but the embraſure between two pillars, with the capitals and a ſmall part of the entablature; this fragment is what Savary, who confeſſes that he never was at Syene, relates on hear-ſay to be probably the remains of the antient obſervatory, in which, according to him, the nilometer ſhould be ſought for. I made a drawing of this ſmall ruin, to deſtroy an error, of which however this ardent and elegant writer is not the author, as he has related every thing, pointed out every thing, and has often painted in a ſurprizing manner even what he had never ſeen.

Near this ruin, among the palm-trees, are the fragments of an edifice, which I think muſt be attributed to the Greek catholics;

two

two columns of granite are ſtill left ſtanding, and two door-caſes of the ſame material, and on the ground are columns grouped againſt two faces of a ſingle pilaſter.

The iſland of Elephantina became at the ſame time my country houſe, and my palace of delight, obſervation, and reſearch; I think I muſt have turned over every looſe ſtone, and queſtioned every rock in the iſland. It was at its ſouthern extremity that the Egyptian town and the Roman habitations were ſituated, and the Arabian buildings which ſucceeded them. The part occupied by the Romans can only now be made out by the bricks, the teſſellated pavements, and the ſmall images of porcelain and bronze, which are ſtill found; the Arab quarter is only diſtinguiſhed by the dunghills, with which they have covered the ſoil, a common feature to all the ruins of the edifices of this people.

Every

Every thing poſterior to this time has diſappeared, ſo as to leave ſcarcely the leaſt trace of its exiſtence, whilſt the Egyptian monuments remain, devoted to poſterity, and have reſiſted equally the ravages of man and of time. In the midſt of this vaſt field of bricks and other pieces of baked earth, of which I have juſt ſpoken, a very antient temple is ſtill left ſtanding, ſurrounded with a pilaſtered gallery, and two columns in the portico. (See Plate XXXI, Fig. 1. and XXXII, Fig. 1.) Nothing is wanting but two pilaſters, on the left angle of this ruin. Other edifices had been attached to it in a later period, but only ſome fragments were remaining, which could give no idea of their form when perfect, but only proved that theſe acceſſory parts were much larger than the original ſanctuary. This latter is covered both within and without with hiero-

glyphics in relief, very well cut, and in good preſervation. I copied a whole ſide of the inner figures, which are repreſented in Plate LIII, Fig. 3; the correſponding ſide appears to be nearly a repetition of the ſame. This kind of picture is the more intereſting to be offered to the diſcuſſion of the curious, as it poſſeſſes an unity of deſign which I had not before met with in this ſort of decoration, commonly divided into diſtinct compartments. I alſo took one ſide of the outer wall, and a ſingle pilaſter: all the reſt are nearly ſimilar. (See Plate LXI,* Fig. 5, and LX, Fig. 9.) The view of the whole of this ſmall edifice will give an idea of its importance, and high ſtate of perſervation.

Could this be the temple of Cneph, the good genius, that among the Egyptian gods,

* By miſtake figured Plate LXIII.

who

Pl. LII

Fig. 1.

Fig. 5.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

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Hensley Sculpt.

who approaches the neareſt to our ideas of the Supreme Being? Or is the temple of this deity one which is placed ſix hundred paces more to the north, of the ſame form and ſize, though more in ruins, all the ornaments of which are accompanied by the ſerpent, the emblem of wiſdom and eternity, and peculiarly that of the god Cneph? To judge from what I have ſeen of Egyptian edifices, this ſuppoſed temple of Cneph is the kind which was uſed in the earlieſt times, and is abſolutely the ſame ſpecies of temple as that of Kurnu in Thebes, which appeared to me to be the moſt ancient of all in that city. The chief difference in the ſculpture of this at Elephantina, which I have been able to diſcover is, that the figures have more life, the drapery is more flowing, and falls into a better form of compoſition. (See Plate LII, Fig. 1 and 5.) The three figures of Fig. 1,

ſeem to thank a hero for having delivered them from a fifth perſon, almoſt defaced, but which it may eaſily be ſeen is in a falling poſture. In this ſculpture there appears to be a kind of grouped compoſition with perſpective: Can it be anterior or poſterior to the time in which the Egyptians had confined within certain lines the expreſſion of all their figures, in order to make them ſerve as a kind of writing or character, by the mere inſpection of which their meaning might be directly underſtood, without requiring the particular explanation of every part. Of the laſt mentioned edifice nothing is preſerved but a column of the portico, and one whole ſide of a gallery in pilaſters. (See Plate XXXI, Fig. 1.)

In the middle of the iſle there are two frames of a large outer door, made of blocks of granite, and ornamented with hieroglyphics.

Fig. 4.

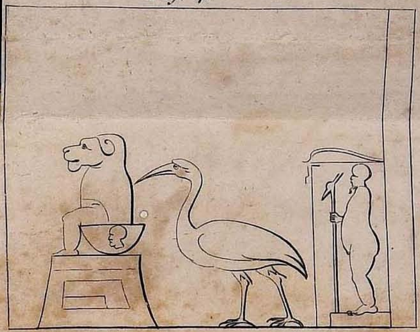


Fig. 2.

Fig. 1.

Fig. 6.

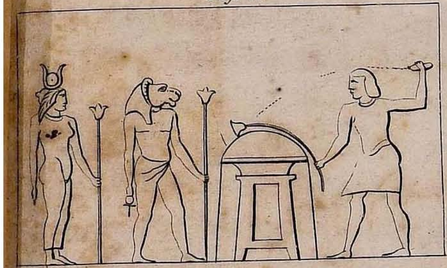


Fig. 5.

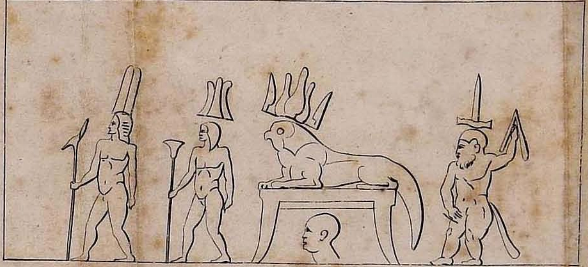


Fig. 3.

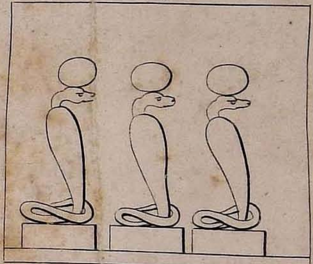


Fig. 9.

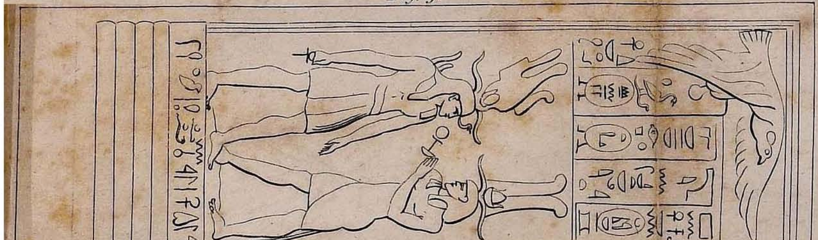


Fig. 7.

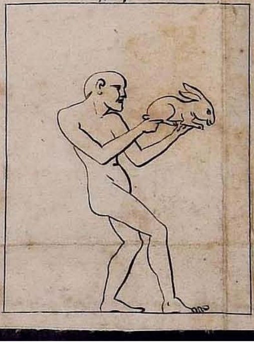
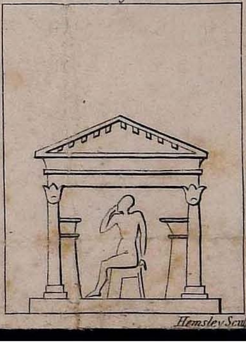


Fig. 8.



Hemsley Sculp.t

phics. These remains certainly indicate monuments of great magnificence, the extent of which might be made out by a little digging. At the east is another fragment of a very small and highly finished edifice: all that is seen of it is the west side of a narrow chamber, or a very small temple, and the hieroglyphics that remain are perfectly well sculptured. The ornaments are loaded with the lotus, particularly the flowers of this plant, whose drooping stem appears to be revived by a figure watering it. This figure is the same as one that I have found at Latopolis. (See Plate LX. Fig. 6.) This chamber or temple communicated with a narrower passage, which, to judge by the traces of a number of successive buildings, terminated on a gallery open to the Nile, and resting on a large embanked facing, which defended the eastern part of the island from

 being

being worn away by the current of the river. Three porticoes of this gallery remain, and a flight of granite ſtairs, which dip into the river. May not this gallery, this adorned chamber, and this ſtair-caſe, be the obſervatory and the nilometer which travellers have in vain ſought for at Syene? Full of this idea, I examined carefully the ſtone facing of the ſtairs, but could find no traces of any graduation; the ſteps themſelves, however, might ſerve as a ſcale, and the upper part of this ſtair-caſe being blocked up with ruins, it is poſſible that the meaſures may be marked in this part which I could not examine.*

* Strabo, who had obſerved Syene with care, and has deſcribed it minutely, ſays, that this nilometer was a well which received the Nile waters, and that the marks by which the height of the inundation was eſtimated were engraved on the ſides of this well.

All

All theſe buildings are founded upon maſſes of rock, covered with hieroglyphics, engraved with more or leſs care. Further on, turning towards the north, are two portions of parapet, which leave between them an opening, through which one may deſcend to the river: on the inner ſide of the right parapet is a bas-relief in marble, repreſenting the figure of the Nile four feet in height, in the ſame attitude, with a coloſſal ſtatue of the ſame ſubject which is at Rome. This copy of the ſame idea proves both that the edifice is Roman, and that this people, in their eſtabliſhment at Syene, having had opportunity of adding the ornaments of luxury and ſuperfluity to works of the firſt neceſſity, had eſtabliſhed rather a powerful colony there than a mere military poſt: the baths and valuable bronze utenſils, which are daily found there, ſupport this opinion of

the richneſs and permanency of this colony.

The iſland of Elephantina, defended on the ſouth by breakers, has been doubtleſs much encreaſed towards the north by alluvial ſoil. This ſoil becomes ſoon converted into cultivated lands and pleaſant gardens, which, being kept perpetually watered by means of wheels and buckets, produce here four or five crops yearly; and thus the inhabitants are numerous, in eaſy circumſtances, and courteous. When I hailed them from the oppoſite ſhore, they would come acroſs for me in their boats, and I was ſoon ſurrounded with all the children, who offered me for ſale fragments of antiquity and rough cornelians. With a few crowns I made a great number of theſe little ones happy, and gained the good will of their parents, who invited me to them, prepared me breakfaſt

in the temples in which I had ſet up my drawing apparatus; in ſhort, I appeared like the kind maſter of a garden, which contained in reality all that one ſeeks to imitate in decorated gardens in Europe: here were iſlets, rocks, deſerts, plains, meadows, garden-ground, open groves, hamlets, dark woods, remarkable and numerous plants, a river, canals, mills, and ſublime ruins; a ſpot ſtill more enchanting, as, like the gardens of Armida, it was ſurrounded with all the horrors of nature, and thoſe of the Thebaïs, the contraſt with which encreaſed the enjoyment of this delightful iſland. Having all my ſenſes and my imagination equally in activity, I never paſſed hours more deliciouſly occupied than thoſe which I devoted to my ſolitary walks at Elephantina; an iſland which alone is worth more than the whole territory on ſhore of the country which lies adjacent to the town.

The population of Syene is numerous: the trade, however, is confined to ſenna and dates, and theſe two articles produce a ſufficient return to pay all the other wants of the inhabitants, to maintain a kiachef, a governor, and a Turkiſh garriſon. The ſenna which grows around Syene, is of moderate quality; when ſold, it is fraudulently mixed with that which grows wild in the deſert, brought hither by the Barabra, and ſold at nearly a hundredth part of what we give for it in Europe. It is true that it has to pay in its paſſage a number of duties, and it is one of the moſt important articles of the cuſtom-houſes of Cairo and Alexandria. The ſecond article of exportation is that of dates; they are ſmall and dry, but ſo abundant, that beſides making the principal food of the inhabitants here, large boats loaded with them are daily going down the river to Lower Egypt.

We learnt by our ſpies, that the Mamelukes had aſcended the river, and remained at as little a diſtance as they could above the cataracts, ravaging the two ſhores of the Nile, which ſtill ſupplied them with ſome forage. They had hitherto drawn ſupplies of flour and dates from Deir and Bribes; but the aga who reſided there, ſignified to them that this ſource muſt be ſtopped. They occupied ten leagues in length on each bank; their rear guard was no more than four leagues off us, ſo that they knew every ſtep we took, as we in our turn were informed of all their movements, by the ſame means, and perhaps, even by the ſame emiſſaries, who ſerved both parties faithfully with equal exactneſs.

General Daouſt had met with Aſſan-Bey on the right bank of the river oppoſite Etfu, at the moment when he was coming down

to the Nile for water: the imminent danger he was in of loſing all his equipage made him charge with fury; the eagerneſs of our men to get poſſeſſion of it, and a little contempt of the enemy, with which the battle of Samanhut had inſpired them, made them attack with too much negligence. This battle of two hundred cavalry on each ſide, was rather an affray than a regular combat, and both parties gave proof of the higheſt valour. The charge laſted half an hour; the field of battle remained with the French; but Aſſan-Bey obtained his main point, that of ſaving his baggage: on our ſide, we had from thirty to forty killed, and as many wounded; twelve Mamelukes periſhed, and many of them were wounded; Aſſan was hurt in the leg, ſo that neither party had any thing to boaſt of by this encounter.

We went to ſeek for the barks which

the Mamelukes had endeavoured to navigate above the cataracts, and we wiſhed at the ſame time to viſit theſe curious objects; we met in our way with the quarries in the granite rocks, whence the blocks were taken which formed the material of the coloſſal ſtatues, that have been the object of admiration to ſo many ages, and the ruins of which ſtill ſtrike us with aſtoniſhment. It ſeemed as if the framers wiſhed to preſerve the memorial of the maſſes that have produced theſe blocks, by leaving on the place hieroglyphical inſcriptions that perhaps record the event. The operation by which theſe blocks were detached, muſt have been nearly the ſame as is employed in the preſent times, that is to ſay, a cleft is firſt cut out, and then the whole maſs is ſplit off by means of wedges of different ſizes, all ſtruck in at one time. The marks of theſe firſt opera-

tions are preſerved ſo freſh in this unalterable material, that to look at them one would ſuſpect that the work had been interrupted only yeſterday. I took a ſketch of them. (See Fig. 2. Plate XXXIII.)

The texture of this granite is ſo hard and compact, that the rocks which are met with in the current, inſtead of becoming worn and ſhattered by decompoſition, have acquired a poliſh by the daſhing of the waves. The fineſt and moſt abundant of this kind of ſtone, is the roſe-coloured granite; the grey is often too micaceous; between theſe blocks are found veins of very brilliant quartz, ſtrata of a red ſtone, which partakes of the nature and the hardneſs of porphyry, and maſſes of that black and hard ſtone, which has been ſo long taken for baſalt, and which the Egyptians have often employed for ſtatues of moderate ſize.

A league

A league and a half below the quarries the rocks encreaſe, and form a bar in the river, where we found the Mameluke barks fixed between the rocks, up to the firſt well below the falls: the peaſants of the neighbourhood had taken out the rigging and the proviſions. We here quitted the little boat in which we had come up, and walking by the ſide of the ſtream for about a quarter of an hour, we came to the part which is generally called *the cataract*. This is nothing but a range of rocks, over which the river flows, forming in ſome places caſcades a few inches in height, they are ſo inſignificant, that they can hardly be repreſented in a drawing; but I juſt ſketched the bar where this celebrated navigation ends, in order to do away the impreſſion that has been given of the great fall of theſe famous cataracts. (See Plate XXXI. Fig. 2.) However, they would

would make a fine picture, if they were represented with the colour which characterizes them.

The mountains, the ſurface of which is broken by black and ragged projections, are reflected with their gloomy aſpect on the clear mirror of the ſtream below, which is broken and divided by ſharp points of granite that roughen its channel, and form long white lines of foam wherever any of theſe rocks cut its ſmooth ſurface. Theſe rough ſhapeleſs maſſes, with their dark hues, form a ſtriking contraſt with the ſoft green of the groupes of palm-trees that cluſter around the irregular cliffs, and with the celeſtial azure blue of the cleareſt ſky over the face of the earth. A picture faithfully repreſenting theſe ſtriking objects, would have the rare advantage of exhibiting a true and yet perfectly novel ſcenery. After paſſing the cataracts,

the

the rocks grow loftier, and on their ſummit rocks of granite are heaped up, appearing to cluſter together, and to hang in equipoiſe, on purpoſe to produce the moſt pictureſque effects. Through theſe rough and rugged forms the eye all at once diſcovers the magnificent monuments of the iſland of Philöe, which form a brilliant contraſt, and one of the moſt ſingular ſurpriſes that the traveller can meet with. The Nile here makes a bend, as if to come and viſit this enchanting iſland, where the monuments are only ſeparated by tufts of palm-trees, or rocks that appear to be left merely to contraſt the forms of nature with the magnificence of art, and to collect, in one rich ſpot, every thing that is moſt beautiful and impreſſive. The enthuſiaſm which the traveller ſo conſtantly experiences at the ſight of the monuments of Upper Egypt, may appear to the reader a

 perpetual

perpetual and monotonous exaggeration; but it is, however, only the ſimple expreſſion of feeling which the ſublimity of their character excites; and it is from the diſtruſt that I feel at being able to give any adequate idea of their magnificence by the pencil, that I have endeavoured to do juſtice to them by my expreſſions for the ſurpriſe and admiration with which they impreſs the beholder.

There were no inhabitants on the ſhore; they had quitted even the iſle of Philöe, and had retired to a ſecond and larger iſland, from which they ſent loud and ſavage cries, which we were told were excited by their fears. We endeavoured to perſuade them to ſend us a boat, which was moored to their bank, but without ſucceſs. However, as this branch of the Nile is very narrow, I was enabled to take the views of the iſland, which are here added. (See Plate XXV. Fig. 2. and XXXIII. Fig. 1.)

We returned home very well ſatisfied with our day's work; but this curſory view did not appear to me ſufficient for objects of antiquity of ſuch importance, and monuments of ſuch extent and high preſervation, the particular deſcription of which would be attended with ſo much intereſt.

Some days after we learnt that the Mamelukes of the right bank were coming to forage within two leagues of our poſts. We prepared to reſiſt them, and ſet out with four hundred men, advancing towards Philöe by land, taking the route acroſs the deſert. This road has one peculiarity, which is, that there are evident remains of its having been tracked out, and raiſed as a cauſeway, and that there was much traffic on it in former times. This is the only part of Egypt in which a high road is abſolutely neceſſary; but the Nile ceaſing to be navigable on ac-

count of the cataracts, all the merchandize of the Ethiopian trade which is landed at Philöe must be transported by land to Syene, to be there re-embarked. All the large blocks of stone that we met with in the way were covered with hieroglyphics, as if they were put there for the amusement of the passengers. One of the most singular of these presents the form of a seat cut out of the solid rock, with a flight of steps to climb up to it; and the whole ornamented with hieroglyphics, the greater number of which are executed with great care. (See Plate XXXII. Fig. 2.)

Another singular object near this road, is the ruins of military lines made of bricks baked in the sun, the base of which is from fifteen to twenty feet in thickness. This entrenchment extended along the valley by the road-side, and terminated at rocks and

forts

forts near three leagues from Syene. Though the materials of which these walls were built were cheap enough, the expence of putting them together must have been very great, and shews the importance attached to the defence of this point. Can these be the remains of the famous wall raised by a queen of Egypt, named Zuleikha, daughter of Ziba, one of the Pharaohs, which extended from the ancient Syené to the place where El Arish is now situated, the fragments of which the Arabs now call *haif-el-adjowz*, or "the "old woman's wall?"

We found the inhabitants of Philöe returned to their habitation, but fully determined not to receive us. We attributed this ill-will to the fear which we gave them of us, and we continued our journey. Beyond Philöe the river is quite open and navigable: but after having passed an Arab fort, and a

moſque of the ſame age, the ſhore of the Nile becomes impracticable for travellers; and inſtead of a profuſion of monuments and inſcriptions, we only ſaw a barren ſoil left to itſelf, and on the rocks a few habitations, which reſembled the huts of ſavages. We entered a deſert which cut an angle of the river, in order to ſhorten our way; and after having for ſeveral hours travelled along valleys which were as deep and hollow as if the country was conſtantly expoſed to ſtorms and torrents, the Nile again opened upon us through a ravine which led to Taudi, an indifferent village on the bank of the river. At our approach the Mamelukes abandoned this village, leaving behind them their plates, their kettles, and even the ſoup they had made, which they intended to eat at ſun-ſet, for it was the month of Ramadan, a kind of Lent, during which

all

all the Muſſulmans, even to the ſoldiers, eat nothing whilſt the ſun is above the horizon.

We ſent out a ſpy during the night; and we learnt, that at day-break the Mamelukes, who were at Demiet, four leagues higher than Taudi, thinking themſelves too near us, had fed their horſes and ſet out at midnight. Our object in driving them further off being fulfilled, we ſet out to return to Syene. I had already ſeen enough of Ethiopia, of the Gublis and their wives, whoſe extreme uglineſs can only be equalled by the ſavage jealouſy of their huſbands. I ſaw ſome of the women, for as I gave the men leſs apprehenſion than our ſoldiers, they put a number of them under my protection in a cabin, before the door of which I had taken up my quarters for the night. They had been taken by ſurprize at the ſudden arrival of our people at the cloſe of evening,

and had not had time to fly and hide themſelves in the rocks, or to ſwim acroſs the river. They appeared to have the ſullen ſtupidity of downright ſavages. A rugged ſoil, fatigue, and inſufficient food, muſt, doubtleſs, impair in them all the charms of nature, and give them even in youth the marks of decrepitude. But the men ſeem to be of another ſpecies; for their features are delicate, their ſkin fine, their countenance lively and animated, and their eyes and teeth admirable. Lively and intelligent, they appear to throw ſo much clearneſs and conciſeneſs in their language, that a ſhort phraſe is always a complete anſwer to queſtions that are put to them: their vivacity more reſembles ours than that of the other oriental nations: they are quick in underſtanding and ſerving, and ſtill more nimble in thieving, and have a greedineſs for money, which keeps

keeps pace with their great frugality, and can only be juſtified by their extreme poverty. To theſe reaſons we may impute their leanneſs, which is not at all connected with ill health, for their colour, though black, is full of life and blood, but their muſcles are only tendons, abſolutely without fat, ſo that I did not ſee a ſingle perſon among them who was even plump. Fig. 4, of Plate XLV. will give the reader an idea of their form and general aſpect.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER XIV.

Attack on Philoe and Expulſion of the Inhabitants—Monuments in the Iſland—Different Periods of Egyptian Architecture—French Fort built at Syene—Antient Monaſtery of Cenobites beyond the Cataracts—Voyage up the River above Syene—Monuments of Ombos—Celebrated Quarries of Gebel Silſilis, with ſculptured Tombs adjoining—Crocodiles—Proceedings of the Mamelukes.

WE could only keep our perſevering enemy at a diſtance from us by ſtarving the country between us and them. We therefore bought up all the cattle, paid for the green crops on the land, and the inhabitants aſſiſted us themſelves in pulling up from

from the ground every ſource of proviſion, and followed us with their domeſtic animals. Thus carrying off with us the whole population, we left behind us nothing but a deſert. In returning, I was again ſtruck with the ſumptuous appearance of the edifices of Philöe; and I am perſuaded that it was to produce this effect upon ſtrangers entering their territory, that the Egyptians had collected upon their frontier ſuch a ſplendid group of monuments. Philöe was the *entrepôt* of a commerce of barter between Ethiopia and Egypt; and wiſhing to give the Ethiopians a high idea of their reſources and their magnificence, the Egyptians had raiſed ſo many ſumptuous edifices on the confines and natural frontier of their empire, Syene and the Cataracts. We had another parley with the inhabitants of Philöe, and it was more explicit: they ſignified to us, that if we

 were

were to come there every day for two months successively, they would never let us land. We were obliged to submit this time to their determination; but as it would have given a bad example to the country to allow a handful of peasants to brave us with such insolence close by our establishments, we resolved on the next day to try if we could not make them change their determination. Accordingly on the morrow, we returned with two hundred men; as soon as they saw us, they put themselves in a posture of defence, and defied us in the manner of savages, with loud cries, which the women repeated. The inhabitants of the neighbouring larger island, immediately collected in arms, which they made to glitter in the sun like sword-players; some of them were quite naked, holding in one hand a sabre, and in the other a buckler, others had rampart-musquets with

matchlocks,

matchlocks, and long pikes, and in a moment all the eaſt ſide of the rock was covered with enemies. We ſtill cried out to them that we were not coming to do them any harm, and we only wanted to enter amicably into their iſland; they anſwered that they would never let us approach, or furniſh us with the means of landing on their ſhores, and that they were not Mamelukes, to fly before us: this bragging ſpeech was cloſed with loud ſhouts which reſounded on all ſides; they wiſhed for the fight; they had defended themſelves againſt the Mamelukes; they had defeated their neighbours; and they now wiſhed to have the glory of reſiſting us, and even giving us defiance. Immediately the order was given to our ſappers to level the huts on the ſhore, to furniſh us with wood for a raft: this act was a declaration of war; they fired on us, and poſting themſelves

ſelves in the clefts and caves of their rocks, they kept up a briſk and well-directed fire on us. At this moment one of our field-pieces came up, the firſt ſight of which carried their rage to the higheſt pitch; but from this time the communication between Philöe and the larger iſland was broken, the people of the latter drove off their herds and cattle, made them croſs an arm of the river, and followed them into the deſert.

We found that the palm-tree wood was too heavy and took water, which compelled us to defer the deſcent till the next day; and in the mean time our troops remained on the ſhore, and every neceſſary was collected in order to conſtruct a raft to hold forty men. This buſineſs employed us the whole of the following day, and this delay encreaſed the inſolence of theſe wretches, who dared to propoſe to the general to pay a hundred

piaſtres

piaſtres to be allowed to come alone and diſarmed into the iſland. The ſcene, however, was ſoon changed, when on a ſudden they ſaw the larger iſland covered with our volunteers, whoſe deſcent had been protected by grape-ſhot: terror ſucceeded, as uſual, to headſtrong raſhneſs; men, women, and children, all threw themſelves into the river to eſcape by ſwimming; and preſerving their ferocious character, we ſaw mothers drowning their children whom they could not carry away with them, and mutilating the girls to ſave them from the violence of the victors. When I entered on the iſland the next day, I found a young girl ſeven or eight years old, who had been cut with brutal cruelty in ſuch a manner, as to prevent her from ſatiſfying the moſt preſſing neceſſity of nature, and it was only by a counter-operation and a bath, that I was able to ſave the life of this

unfortunate little creature, who was very pretty. Others of a more advanced age had not recourſe to ſuch ſeverities, and choſe for themſelves companions from among the victors. In a word, the population of the iſland was diſperſed in a few minutes, having ſuffered a moſt ſerious and irreparable loſs.

They had pillaged the boats which the Mamelukes had not been able to get above the falls, and had formed magazines of this booty, which had made them immenſely rich, in compariſon with their neighbours, and might have ſecured to them repoſe and eaſy circumſtances for a number of years; in a few hours they were reduced to beggary, deſtitute of ſupport, both for the preſent and the future, and were obliged to go and ſolicit an aſylum from thoſe on whom they had made war a few days before. Our ſoldiers were employed the reſt of the day in eva-

cuating the magazines of the larger iſland, and I made uſe of this time in making drawings of the rocks and antiquities.

The ruins in this iſland conſiſt of a ſmall ſanctuary, faced by a portico of four columns with very elegant capitals, to which had been added at a later period another portico, which doubtleſs was attached to the circumvallation of the temple. The moſt ancient part, which was alſo conſtructed with more care, was ornamented in a higher degree than the reſt; the uſe made of it in the rites of the catholic religion has impaired the original character, by adding ſquare arched doorways. In the ſanctuary, cloſe to the figures of Iſis and Oſiris, may ſtill be ſeen the miraculous impreſſion of the feet of St. Anthony, or St. Paul the hermit.

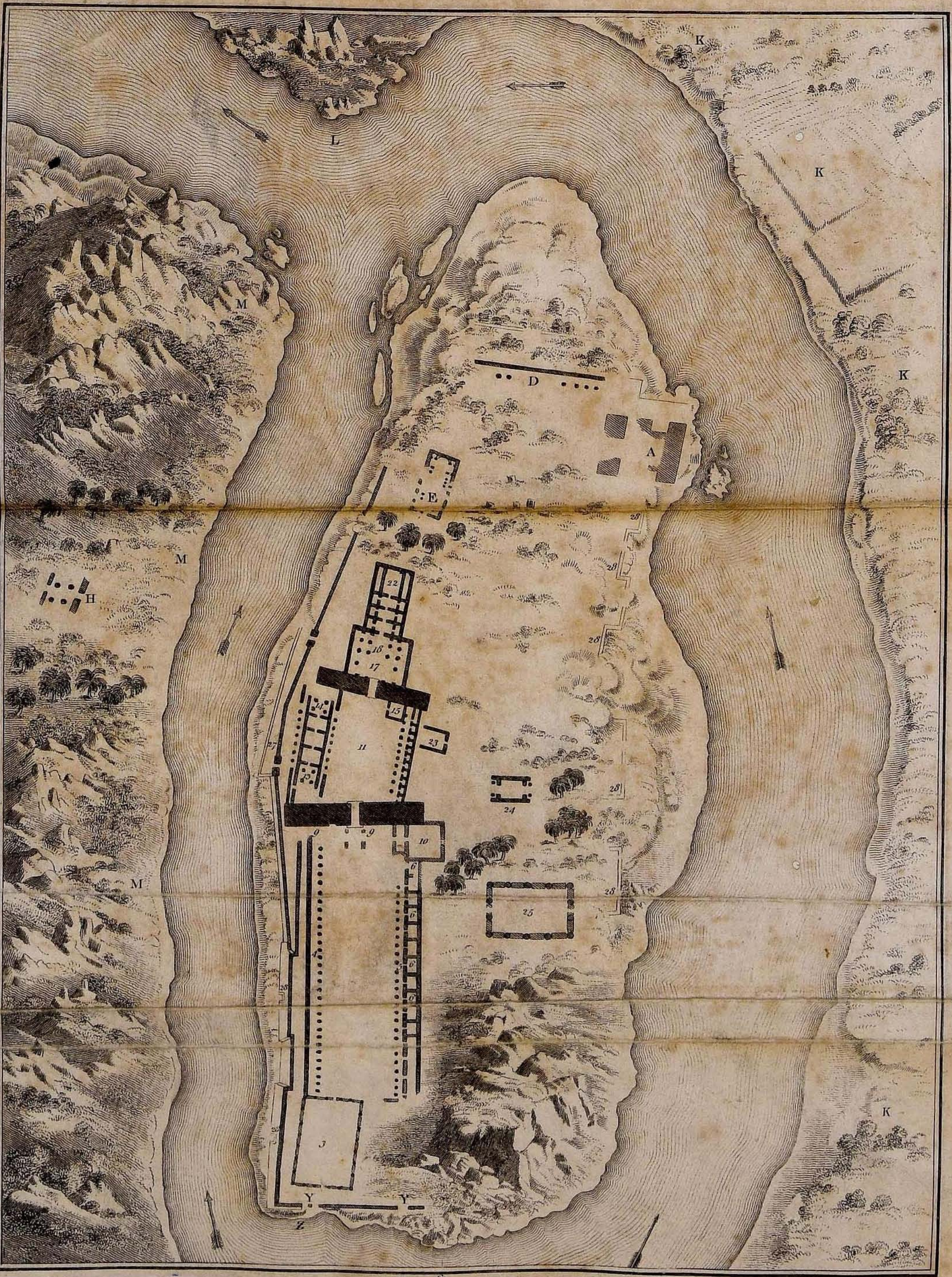
The next day was the fineſt to me of my whole travels: I poſſeſſed ſeven or eight mo-

numents in the ſpace of ſix hundred yards, and could examine them quite at my eaſe, for I had not by my ſide any of thoſe impatient companions who always think they have ſeen enough, and are conſtantly preſſing you to go to ſome other object, nor had I in my ears the beating of drums as a ſignal to muſter, or to march, nor Arabs nor peaſants to torment me; I was alone in full leiſure, and could make my drawings without interruption. (See the plan of the iſland Plate XXXIV.) This was my ſixth viſit to Philöe; the five firſt I had employed in taking views of the ſhores of the vicinity.

As ſoon as I could ſet foot in the iſland, I began firſt by going over all the inner part, to take a general ſurvey of the various monuments, and to form a kind of topographical chart containing the iſland, the courſe of the river and the adjacent characteriſtic

ſcenery.

Pl. XXXIV.



180 Feet.

Neele sculp 352 Strand.

Plan of the Temples of Philoe.

Published by Longman & Rees, & Richard Phillips.

ſcenery. I found a convincing proof that this group of monuments had been conſtructed at different periods, by ſeveral nations, and had belonged to different forms of religious worſhip; and the union of theſe various edifices, each of them in itſelf regular, and crouded together in this narrow ſpot, formed an irregular group of moſt picturesque and magnificent objects. (See Plate XXXIII. Fig. 1.) I could here diſtinguiſh eight ſanctuaries or ſeparate temples, of different dimenſions, built at various times, and the limits of each had been reſpected in the conſtruction of the ſucceeding ones, which had impaired the regularity of the whole. A part of the additions to the original buildings had been made with a view of connecting the old to the new, avoiding, with great dexterity, falſe angles and general irregularities. This kind of confuſion of the archi-

 tectural

tectural lines, which appear like errors in the plan, produce in the elevation a picturesque effect, which geometrical rectitude cannot give, it multiplies objects, forms elegant groups, and offers to the eye more richness than cold symmetry can ever command. I could here convince myself of the truth of a remark which I had before made at Thebes and Tentyra, which is, that the mode of building with the ancient Egyptians was, first to erect large masses, on which they afterwards bestowed the labour of ages, in the particulars of the decoration, beginning their work with shaping the architectural lines, proceeding next to the sculpture of the hieroglyphics, and concluding with the stucco and the painting. All these distinct periods of work are very obvious here, where nothing is finished but what belongs to the highest antiquity: whereas a part of the sub-

ordinate buildings, which ſerved to connect the various monuments, had been left in many particulars without finiſh, without ſculpture, and even incomplete in the building.

The great and magnificent oblong monument, exhibits theſe different periods of workmanſhip; it would be difficult to aſſign any uſe to this edifice, if the preſence of certain ornaments repreſenting offerings had not pointed it out to be a temple. It has, however, the form neither of a portico nor of a temple; the columns which compoſe its outer circumference, and which are engaged in the wall only half their height, ſupport nothing but an entablature and a cornice, without roof or platform: it only opened by two oppoſite doors, without lintels, which made a ſtraight paſſage through in the longitudinal direction. As it was

doubtleſs built in the later period of the Egyptian power, it ſhews the perfection of art in the higheſt purity; the capitals are admirable in beauty and execution, the volutes and the foliage are gracefully waved, like the fineſt Greek architecture, and are ſymmetrically diverſified like thoſe of Apollinopolis, that is to ſay, differing from the contiguous capitals, and ſimilar to the correſponding ones, and all are exactly kept within the ſame parallel. (See Plate XXIX. Fig. 6.)

It gave me no little trouble to clear, in my imagination, from the ſurrounding fragments, theſe long galleries encumbered with ruins, to follow the lines of the quays, to raiſe up the ſphinx and the obeliſks, to reſtore the broken communication between the ſteps and ſtaircaſes. Urged on at once by every kind of curioſity, and fearing to

impart

impart my erroneous conjectures to those to whom I intended to give an account of my sensations and my researches, I wished to trace on my plan the precise state of the ruins, and the confused heap of fragments, and from such a plan to discuss the numerous points which were involved in doubt and uncertainty. What could be the meaning of this vast number of sanctuaries, so contiguous to each other, and yet so distinct? Were they consecrated to different divinities, were they votive chapels, or places devoted each to particular ceremonies of religious worship? The innermost temples contained still more mysterious sanctuaries, such as monolithic temples, or tabernacles of a single stone, containing, perhaps, what was most precious and most sacred to the worshippers; perhaps even the sacred bird, which represented the presiding deity of the

temple; the hawk, for example, the emblem of the ſun, to whom the building might be conſecrated. On the ceilings of the ſame portico were painted aſtronomical pictures, the theories of the elements; on the walls, religious ceremonies, images, prieſts, and gods, (as repreſented in Plate LII. Fig. 2 and 3.) by the ſide of the gates gigantic portraits of certain ſovereigns, or emblematical figures of ſtrength or power, threatening a group of ſuppliant figures, which they hold with one hand by the hair of the head. (See Plate XL. Fig. 4.) Can theſe be rebellious ſubjects, or vanquiſhed enemies? I ſhould incline to the latter opinion, becauſe the figures, which certainly repreſent Egyptians, have never long hair.

Beſides this vaſt encloſure, in which theſe numerous temples were connected and grouped together, by dwellings for the prieſts, there

there were two temples ſtanding apart; the larger of the two I have already ſpoken of, the ſmaller is one of the moſt beautiful that can be conceived, in perfect preſervation, and ſo ſmall, that it almoſt gives one the deſire of carrying it away. I found within it ſome remains of a domeſtic ſcene, which ſeemed to be that of Joſeph and Mary, and ſuggeſted to me the ſubject of the flight into Egypt, in a ſtyle of the utmoſt truth and intereſt. If ever we ſhould be diſpoſed to tranſport a temple from Africa to Europe, this which I am ſpeaking of ſhould be ſelected for the purpoſe; for, beſides the practicability of ſuch an operation afforded by its ſmall dimenſions, it would give a palpable proof of the noble ſimplicity of Egyptian architecture, and would ſhew in a ſtriking manner, that it is character, and not extent alone, which gives dignity to an edifice.

Beſides

Beſides the Egyptian monuments, Greek and Roman ruins are found at the ſouth-eaſt of the iſland, which appear to me to be the remains of a ſmall port, and a cuſtom-houſe, of which the wall of the façade is decorated with pilaſters and arcades of the doric order: ſome ſtanding fragments of columns ſhew an open gallery, or a kind of portico in front; between theſe ruins and the Egyptian monuments, the ſur-baſe of a catholic church may be remarked, which is built of antique fragments, mixed with croſſes and Greek ornaments of the later ages; for in theſe countries catholiciſm has been too poor to remove entirely her own worſhip from the pomp of idolatrous temples. After having eſtabliſhed her ſaints in the face of the Egyptian deities, ſhe has often painted a St. John, or St. Paul, by the ſide of the goddeſs Iſis, and diſguiſed Oſiris into

St.

St. Athanasius; or else, quitting the heathen temples altogether, she has dilapidated them, and taken the ready-made materials to construct her own edifices of religious worship.

What a profusion of objects of curiosity! —but the time was gliding by so fast, that I wished to stay the course of the sun. Having employed many hours in observation, I began to make drawings and measurements; but I saw that our people had finished clearing the enemy's magazines, and I could not hope to return to Philöe, for I had not here such kind friends as at Elephantina, and the troops had already been too much fatigued with the siege of this little island. I at last quitted this spot, with my eyes tired out by so many objects, and my mind filled with the various recollections attached to it: I left it at night, loaded with my treasures,

and

bringing with me my little girl, whom I entrufted to the fheik of Elephantina, to reftore her to her parents.

The plan was formed of fortifying Syene; the engineer Garbé had chofen an efplanade on an eminence on the fouth of the city, on which to conftruct a fort, which fhould command all the approaches, and overlook the adjacent country. There were neither fhovels, pickaxes, hammers, nor trowels, but all thefe articles were forged; bricks could not be made for want of wood, but they were collected out of all the old Arab buildings in the place. Our brave twenty-firft regiment, like the Roman cohorts who had inhabited the fame place, knew no difficulties, or furmounted them all. Every individual was required to make two journeys daily to the fpot, in order to tranfport materials; many of the men could with difficulty drag their

legs

legs to the ſpot, but not one failed in complying with the requiſition: the baſtions were traced out, and the labour was conducted with ſo much ſpeed, that in a few days the fortreſs began to appear above the foundations; and in the ſame time we baſtioned and embattled an old Roman building, which had been a bath, and was in very good preſervation, and which, from its ſituation, had the double advantage of protecting and commanding the river.

The termination of the march of the French through Egypt was inſcribed on a granite rock beyond the cataracts. I took advantage of a reconnoitering party being puſhed to the deſert on the left bank, to go and viſit the quarries of which Pocock ſpeaks, and an ancient monaſtery of cenobites. After marching an hour, we diſcovered this monument in a ſmall valley, ſurrounded

with

with ſhattered rocks, and with ſands produced by their decompoſition. The detachment, purſuing its deſtination, left me alone in this ſpot.

They were hardly gone when I was alarmed at my ſolitary ſituation. I was loſt among long corridors, and theſe melancholy vaults echoed with the ſound of my feet, the only noiſe with which this profound ſilence had been diſturbed perhaps for ages. The cells of theſe monks reſembled the cages of animals in a menagerie; they were receſſes ſeven feet ſquare, and only enlightened by a diſmal window, ſix feet from the ground: this refinement of auſterity, however, only concealed from the eye of the recluſe the view of the vaſt expanſe of heaven, an equally boundleſs horizon of ſand, and a bright uninterrupted light, as melancholy as night, and more waſting to the corporeal frame,

and

and perhaps more impreſſive of the gloomy picture of their ſolitude. In this dungeon a bed of bricks, and a receſs, ſerving as a cloſet, were all the conveniences which had been added to this ſpace between four walls; and a tower placed by the ſide of the gate, ſhews alſo that even the auſtere repaſt of theſe cenobites was taken in ſolitude. Nothing indicated the remains of the habitation of man, but ſome ſhort ſentences written on the walls; and I fancied I could trace in theſe inſcriptions their laſt ſentiments, and the only memorial which they would leave to thoſe who were to ſucceed them—a vain attempt, which time, that deſtroys every thing, has entirely fruſtrated. I preſented them to my imagination as dying, and ſtill ſtriving, with fluttering ſpeech, to utter a few words. Oppreſſed with this ſucceſſion of gloomy objects, I haſtened to the court,

a ſpace encloſed with lofty embattled walls, covert ways, and embraſures for cannon; every thing announced that the ſtorms of war had ſucceeded the horrors of ſilence in this fatal place; that this edifice, torn from the cenobites, who had raiſed it with ſo much zeal and perſeverance, had at different periods ſerved as a retreat to the vanquiſhed, or as an advanced poſt to the victorious army.

The differences of ſtyle in its conſtruction may ſerve as a hiſtory of this monument. Being begun in the firſt ages of catholiciſm, all that was then raiſed ſtill bears the mark of greatneſs and magnificence: what war has afterwards added has been done haſtily, and is ſtill more in ruins than the original conſtruction. In the court a ſmall church, built of unbaked bricks, ſhews further that a ſmaller number of recluſe have returned after a con-

ſiderable

ſiderable time to reſume poſſeſſion of theſe walls; and finally, a more recent deſtruction ſeems to indicate that it is only a few ages ſince this ſpot has been entirely given up to the ſilence and deſolation that prevails all around this gloomy edifice.

The detachment which had left me here now came back for me, and it was like riſing from the tomb. With regard to the quarries which I found in the neighbourhood, they are not thoſe out of which the obeliſks were cut, for theſe are always of granite, and the granite rocks are at a diſtance from this ſpot. The rocks here are free-ſtone; the only objects of curioſity are the fragments of the inclined roads, over which the maſſes of ſtone were rolled, and thus conducted to the river, to be there embarked for the different edifices where they were to be employed.

We learnt that the Mamelukes, who had

 fled

fled before us at Damiet, had taken the desert on the right bank of the river, and were going down the stream to rejoin Assan-Bey; that Murad, after violent debates, had collected all the provisions which the upper country would furnish, and was returning by the left side through the desert, leaving behind him only the aged Solyman, who kept possession of Bribe with eighty Mamelukes. Having nothing more to do at Syene, we left it the 25th of February. I could still have willingly remained there a fortnight longer, but I should have feared to wait for the burning winds of the spring, and my health had already had a painful attack: three days of east wind in January had made the atmosphere as oppressively hot as it is with us in the dog days; to this had succeeded so cold a north wind, that in four hours it had given me a fever. In hopes of some

ſome reſt, I had put myſelf on board the barks; they were to ſail as high up as the troops, who were reſuming the journey which I had juſt taken; and I hoped in travelling by the river to ſee Ombos, and the quarries of Gebel Silſilis, which I had paſſed at ſome diſtance to my left, in my excurſion up the ſtream.

I was hardly embarked, when I experienced all the inconveniences of this mode of conveyance. The contrary wind, the ſtupidity of the natives, who could not be made to work the veſſels, and the fruitleſs cries of our provençals, every thing conſpired to torment us. We were a long while working up to Com-Ombos, and juſt then the wind became favourable for paſſing it; our flotilla were in too much haſte for me to venture to propoſe ſtopping there even a ſingle hour, ſo that I had juſt time to give it a glance in

ſailing by, and to take a haſty ſketch of the general ſite, and the fine poſition of the monuments. The ancient Ombos, where the crocodile was revered, is ſtill called Com-Ombos (the mountain Ombos) and it is ſituated on an eminence, which commands the country, and projects out to the very margin of the river. If all the fragments which are here ſeen belonged to a ſingle edifice, it muſt have been immenſe. In the centre is a grand portico of columns with wide capitals, in very large proportion; on the ſouth, one gate is preſerved entire; it joined a wall of circumvallation, which is deſtroyed; at the weſt, and on the bank of the Nile, an enormous mole was raiſed which is at preſent in ruins at its upper part; the inundations of the river have laid bare its foundations for ſixty feet in depth, they were conſtructed with the ſame ſolidity and magnificence as the

the ornamental part. Towards the north, in the ſame direction, the remains of a temple or gallery may be ſeen, in ſmaller proportion, with columns and capitals. In the open ſpace between theſe two laſt edifices, was a parapet made of hewn ſtone, which opened to the view the grand temple in the middle, and muſt have produced a theatrical and magnificent effect. It is very well proved that the Egyptians were more attached to magnitude, even in producing picturеſque beauties, than regular ſymmetry; they ſupplied the want of this latter by noble piles of buildings, by richneſs, by beautiful parts, and by impreſſive effect. Were they wrong in this idea? The queſtion is of conſiderable magnitude. However this may be, and whatever compoſed the remainder of the ancient town of Ombos, it could not but offer a very majeſtic view when entire; ſince, di-

lapidated as it is, and encumbered with vile huts, the forms of beauty which it difplays produce a moft magic picture of fplendid ruin to the beholder.

The next day I was more fortunate: we anchored oppofite the large quarries of free-ftone cut in the mountains, which form the banks of the Nile here on either fide. This fpot is called Gebel Silfilis, and is fituated between Etfu and Ombos. The ftone of thefe quarries being of an equal grain and uniform texture throughout, blocks may be cut out of them as large as can be defired; and it is doubtlefs to the beauty and unalterability of this material, that we owe the vaft fize and fine prefervation of the monuments which are our admiration at the prefent time, fo many centuries after the date of their conftruction. From the immenfe excavations, and the quantity of fragments which may

may ſtill be ſeen in theſe quarries, we may ſuppoſe that they were worked for ſome thouſands of years; and they alone might have ſupplied the materials employed for the greater part of the monuments of Egypt. The diſtance would, in fact, prove no obſtacle to the working of theſe quarries, ſince the Nile, during its inundation, would conſtantly come and float the boats which were loaded during the dry ſeaſon, and carry them to the place of their deſtination.

The mania of erecting monuments among the Egyptians, ſhews itſelf on every ſide in theſe quarries; which, after having furniſhed materials for the erection of temples, were themſelves conſecrated by monuments, and decorated with religious edifices. On the ſhore of the Nile may be ſeen porticoes with columns, entablatures, and cornices, covered with hieroglyphics, all cut out of the ſolid

rock; and likewiſe a large number of tombs, alſo hollowed out of the mountain. Theſe tombs are ſtill very curious, though they are disfigured with trenches and rubbiſh.

In ſeveral of theſe tombs ſmall private chambers are found, many of which contain large ſealed figures; theſe chambers are adorned with hieroglyphics traced on the rock, and terminated with coloured ſtucco, repreſenting conſtantly offerings of bread, fruits, liquors, fowls, &c. The ceilings, alſo of ſtucco, are ornamented with painted ſcrolls in an exquiſite taſte; the floor is inlaid with a number of tombs of the ſame dimenſions and form as are given to the caſes of mummies, and equal in number to the ſculptured figures: thoſe that repreſent men have ſmall ſquare beards, with a head-dreſs hanging behind over the ſhoulders; the women have the ſame dreſſes, but falling down in front

over

over their naked necks. Theſe latter are commonly repreſented with one arm paſſing within the arm of the figure beſide them, and the other holding a lotus flower, a plant of Acheron, the emblem of death. The tombs that contain but a ſingle figure are probably thoſe of men who have died in celibacy; where three are contained, they repreſent perhaps a huſband who had two wives, either at one time or ſucceſſively. The acceſs to theſe tombs being always made by violence, I could not obſerve how they were intended to open and ſhut; all that I could diſtinguiſh in the fragments that remained was, that the doors were all decorated with jambs covered with hieroglyphics, and ſurmounted with a coping, which forms a cornice, and an entablature on which a winged globe is always ſculptured.

On the ſide of theſe doors I have often

met

met with the figure of a woman in the attitude of grief; perhaps a widow lamenting the loſs of her huſband. This is repreſented at Fig. 4. Plate LII.

The choice of this ſituation for the habitations of the dead, ſhews, that at all times in Egypt, the ſilence of the deſert has been the aſylum of death, ſince even now the Egyptians carry their dead into the deſert three leagues from their habitations, that the dryneſs of the ſands may preſerve them from corruption; and they go thither every week to pray over theſe tombs. I had hardly drawn the moſt intereſting of theſe quarries, when a favourable wind ſummoned us on board.

In approaching Eſneh we again found crocodiles: they are not to be ſeen at Syene, but re-appear above the cataracts: they ſeem to prefer certain reaches of the river, and parti-

particularly from Tentyra to Ombos; they abound moſt of all near Hermontes. We here ſaw three of them; one, much larger than the reſt, was nearly twenty-five feet long; they were all aſleep, ſo that we could approach them within twenty paces, and we had time to diſtinguiſh all the peculiarities which give them ſuch a hideous aſpect: they reſembled diſmounted cannon. I fired on one with a heavy muſquet, the ball ſtruck him and rebounded from his ſcales; he made a leap of ten feet, and dived into the river.

Four leagues ſhort of Eſneh, I ſaw a quay faced with ſtone, on the edge of the river, and two hundred yards further was a pyramidal gate much in ruins, along with ſix columns of the portico and gallery of a temple, which muſt have been dedicated to Chnubis. We had a good wind, and it would

would have been a crime of treaſon againſt the ſervice to requeſt a delay for the purpoſe of making a drawing, ſo that I could only take a ſketch of it as we paſſed by.

Half a league lower we ſaw four other crocodiles.

At day-break we arrived at Eſneh. On landing I heard the drums beat to muſter the forces. I had had already enough of travelling by water, ſo that in ten minutes after ſetting foot on ſhore I was on horſe-back, turning my back on Apollinopolis and Latopolis, many particulars of which I ſtill had to examine. But ſuch was the chance of war; and I ought to think myſelf very happy that the obſtinacy of Murad had cauſed me to viſit Syene. He appeared to have had no other plan than that of conſtant perſeverance, following every day the impulſe of the moment, and the event of circum-ſtances.

The coalition of the beys was already broken; Solyman had remained at Dëir; Affan, with forty Mamelukes, had feparated from Murad as high as Efneh, and had gone up ftill higher to Etfu; all the fheiks on the left fide muft have parted from him lower down; and Murad himfelf, left alone with his three hundred Mamelukes, had been about to defcend below Sïut, but being met at Suhama, below Girgeh, by General Friand, who had broken the affembly of troops, which he was again collecting, he took the road to Eluah, one of the oafes, where he remained, waiting to fee what chance might turn out in his favour. There had been two actions between the Mecca foldiers and General Friand on the left bank, between Thebes and Kous; fix hundred of thefe adventurers had perifhed in the two encounters; but it was faid that the fheref

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of Mecca himſelf was advancing with ſix thouſand troops to join the eight or nine hundred that remained out of the firſt cruſade.

CHAP-

CHAPTER XV.

Arrival at Hermontis—Viſit the Necropolis of Thebes—Arrive at Kous—Capture of the Flotilla by the Meccans—Battle of Benhute—Fortreſs ſtormed—Critical Situation of the French Army—Reach Keneh—Attempt to ſurpriſe the Enemy—Retreat of the Mamelukes into the Deſert—New Poſition of the Army.

WE arrived at Hermontis in the morning of the 4th of March. We there halted, in order to procure intelligence of the Mamelukes, the Meccans, and the ſeveral detachments of our army, which was at this moment diſtributed over a conſiderable extent of country.

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Having already ſeen the temple here, I was reduced to a ſecond viſit to the hieroglyphics, and I took drawings of all thoſe that appeared to me the moſt uſeful to be preſented to the reſearches of the learned on my return. (See Plate LX. Figs. 2, 3, 4, and 5.)

I had now a better opportunity of obſerving the ſite of the ancient town, which had had a wall of circumvallation, and ſeveral temples. But for ever temples! not a ſingle public edifice, not a ſingle houſe, nor even royal palace, which had been able to reſiſt the ravages of time! What then were the people, and who the ſovereigns? It ſhould ſeem that the former were compoſed of ſlaves, the latter pious leaders, and the prieſts humble and hypocritical deſpots, concealing their tyranny from the people by the name of a vain monarch, and poſſeſſing all

the ſcience that was then known, which they wrapped up in emblem and myſtery, to put a barrier between them and the people. The king was ſerved by prieſts, counſelled by prieſts, fed by them, inſtructed by them; every morning, after having dreſſed him up, they read to him the duties of a ſovereign towards his people, and towards his religion; they then led him to the temple; and the reſt of the day, like the doge of Venice, he was never without ſix counſellors, who ſtill were prieſts. With ſuch precautions, they might perhaps be tolerably ſecure of never having a very bad king; but what was the gain for the people, if the prieſts ſupplied his place? The only two ſovereigns who, according to hiſtory, dared to ſhake off the yoke, were Cheops and Cephrenes, who ſhut up the temples for twenty years; but theſe were regarded as impious

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and rebellious princes, and were recorded as ſuch in the annals which the prieſts compoſed and handed down to poſterity.

The palace with a hundred chambers, the only palace mentioned in the hiſtory of Egypt, was the work of a new form of government, in which the prieſts could no longer poſſeſs the ſame influence. The famous canals, of which hiſtory ſpeaks ſo pompouſly, have preſerved no magnificence, have neither cauſeways nor ſluices, and the only facings and quays that I have met with on the banks of the Nile are very trifling works, compared to thoſe coloſſal and immortal temples, whoſe precincts occupied a very large proportion of the ſpace included within the walls that ſurrounded the towns. The jeſuits of Paraguay, perhaps, might have let us into the ſecret of the ſyſtem of theocratic dominion; and in this caſe I

ſhould

ſhould ſee in the rich country of Egypt nothing but a gloomy and myſterious government, weak kings, and a ſad unhappy people.

On the 8th we ſet out on our march to meet Oſman-Bey, who, we were informed, was to paſs the Nile at Keneh. I had again the mortification of croſſing the ground occupied by the ancient Thebes, with ſtill leſs opportunity of examining it than at firſt; without meaſuring a ſingle column, without taking a ſingle ſketch, without approaching a ſingle monument, we followed the courſe of the Nile, avoiding both the temples of Medinet-Abu, the Memnonium, the temples of Kurnu, which I paſſed on my left, and thoſe of Luxor and Karnak on my right—ſtill temples—nothing but temples! and not a veſtige of the hundred gates ſo celebrated in hiſtory; no walls, quays, bridges, baths, or theatres; not a ſingle edifice of public utility

or convenience: notwithſtanding all the pains which I took in the reſéarch, I could find nothing but temples, walls covered with obſcure emblems, and hieroglyphics, which atteſted the aſcendency of the prieſthood, who ſtill ſeemed to reign over theſe mighty ruins, and whoſe empire conſtantly haunted my imagination.

The ſpace occupied by this incomprehenſible town, now infolds four villages and as many hamlets, which appear thinly ſcattered over vaſt fields; as a few wild ſhoots recall to the paſſenger the exiſtence of ſome ſtately tree, celebrated by the majeſty of its ſhade, or the abundance of its fruit. Quitting with regret this famous diſtrict, we halted in the village on the weſt ſide, the quarter of the ancient necropolis, where I again found the inhabitants of Kurnu diſputing our entrance into the tombs, which they had

taken as their aſylum. We muſt have killed them before we could perſuade them that we did not mean them any harm, and we had not time to enter into diſpute; we therefore contented ourſelves with blockading the openings, whilſt we took a ſhort repaſt on the ſpot, and I took advantage of this halt to finiſh my drawing of the deſert, and the outer view of theſe habitations of the dead. (See Plate XXI. Fig. 2.)

Towards the evening one of our ſpies gave us notice, that the ſoldiers from Mecca, united to Oſman-Bey, were entrenched at Benhute, three leagues before Keneh, where they were waiting for us: he told us further, that they had artillery with them, and that they were determined on hoſtilities, and on taking the chance of a battle; and added, that they had ſtopped ſeveral of our barks on the Nile; and after an obſtinate combat, in

which many of the peaſants and Meccans had been killed, the French had been overpowered by numbers, and had been all maſſacred. We ſlept on the banks of the river, and this was to be paſſed before we could come up with the enemy; ſo we waited for our barks to come up. We ſoon were convinced, beyond a doubt, that we were ſeen by the enemy from the oppoſite ſhore, for we perceived armed horſemen conſtantly paſſing and repaſſing. We then marched back to meet our convoy, which we ſoon joined; and all the reſt of the day was employed in the paſſage of the river, which we made good at El Kamoutch. On the 10th we reſumed our march, and on our arrival at Kous, the report which we had heard in the evening was confirmed.

Kous, which is placed at the entrance of the opening of the deſert which leads to

Berenice and Cosseir, is still beautiful on the south side. Its immense plantations of melons, and its numerous and abundant gardens, must make it appear delicious to the inhabitants of the shores of the Red Sea, and to the thirsty travellers who have just crossed the desert. It has succeeded to the commerce and catholic establishment of Copthos; for the Copts are still its most numerous inhabitants. Their zeal induced them to come and give us all the intelligence which they had been able to collect, and they accompanied us in person, and followed us with their good wishes to the very confines of their territory. I was struck with the sincere interest which the sheik expressed for our fate, who, believing that we were marching on to certain death, gave us the most circumstantial advice, without concealing from us any of the dangers to which we were exposed,

advifed us with great judgment on every particular which could render the encounter lefs fatal to us, followed us as far as he could, and parted from us with tears in his eyes. Defaix had before been a week at Kous, and had feen much of the fheik; and the tender intereft which the latter fhewed for us, was the natural refult of the favourable opinion which he muft have formed of the frank and communicative difpofition of our leader, and of that mild and unvarying equity which afterwards obtained for him the title of *the Juft*; the moft honourable appellation which could be obtained by a conqueror and a ftranger, arrived in an enemy's country on purpofe to make war.

We took but little heed of the battle which it was faid our boats had been engaged in, and we were far from having a juft idea of the importance of the intelligence given

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us. We were now but four leagues off the enemy; an hour after our march through Kous, we obſerved, at the foot of the deſert, the ruins of Copthos, famous in the fourth century by its commerce with the eaſt: nothing of its ancient ſplendour can be diſtinguiſhed; but the extent of the heaps of ruins with which it is ſurrounded, points out that of the ſite of the ancient city. All that remains of the old town, is as dry and uninhabited as the deſert, on the border of which it is ſituated.

We were ſcarcely paſt Copthos, when we were informed that the enemy had begun their march; we halted, and after a ſlight repaſt, reſumed our courſe to meet them. We ſoon perceived their ſtandards, which were diſtributed over more than a league of ground; we continued to advance in the order that we had firſt taken, that is to ſay, a ſquare

a ſquare battalion, flanked with a ſingle three-pounder field-piece, and fifteen cavalry; we looked like a ſingle point coming acroſs a line. We ſoon heard the ſhouts of the enemy, and we came to action at a village, which the extremity of their line had juſt occupied; we detached our markſmen, who immediately were cloſely engaged with them; but, notwithſtanding ſeveral ſhot from our field-piece, they did not give way, for their raſh valour ſupplied the want of ſufficient arms. After this advanced body had been cut to pieces, rather than routed, we found more reſiſtance in the villages, where the enemy were more on an equality with us, by having ſome fire-arms, and the protection of walls; we however repulſed them as far back as another village, a quarter of a league farther off. At this moment the Mamelukes began to parade before us, and

to make a feint of charging our right, to divert us from purſuing the advantage that we had juſt gained over their ally: however, we marched ſtraight up to them, without diſcontinuing the engagement with the Meccans: our determined advance, and ſome diſcharges of cannon, delivered us from the Mamelukes, who were not ſo much in earneſt as the Meccans, and only wiſhed to try if the number and valour of their allies would compel us to detach againſt them ſo many of our men as would weaken our grand ſquare, and allow them to charge us with advantage. Having diſlodged the infantry of our enemy from the ſecond village, we came to a ſmall plain before Benhute, where we knew that the greater body of the enemy was entrenched, and to which all the fugitives had retired. We expected to have a bloody battle, but not to be cannonaded in

form by a battery which fired both grape and bullets, which reached our ſquare, and even went beyond us. I now ſaw death cloſe at my ſide; in the ſhort time of ten minutes that we ſtopped, three perſons were killed whilſt I was ſpeaking to them. I dared no longer to ſpeak to any one, for the laſt was ſtruck by a ball, which we both ſaw coming up ploughing the ground before it, and appearing to be almoſt ſpent. My friend lifted up his foot to let it paſs him, when a ſudden leap of the ball ſtruck him on the heel, and tore the muſcles of his leg, making a wound which the next day proved fatal to this young officer, as we wanted the neceſſary inſtruments for amputation.

We fancied that, according to the cuſtom of the country, their unmounted pieces were capable but of one direction: we were, however, not a little ſurpriſed, on perceiving

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that their balls followed our movements, ſo as to oblige us to quicken our pace in poſting ourſelves in front of the village, where we maintained the action, while the carabiniers and chaſſeurs proceeded to turn their battery, and to carry it at the bayonet's point. The moment the drums beat to charge, the Mamelukes came forward to the attack of our carabiniers, who, after having received them with a diſcharge of muſketry, by which they were repulſed, ſtormed and carried the battery, making a general maſſacre of all all thoſe who ſerved the guns. Theſe guns were French; and were found on inſpection to have belonged to the *Italie*, the commodore's bark of our flotilla. We were in hopes that after this important capture the battle would terminate, by the diſperſion or flight of the army of Meccans: a part of this army, however, maintained its ground

ground for a confiderable time in a fmall grove of palm-trees; while the other part, which was ftill more numerous, made a kind of retreat, which we dared not harafs, fince, whenever we paffed beyond the thickets and enclofed grounds to make a rapid movement, the Mamelukes, by whom we were conftantly flanked, had it in their power to attack and drive us back. It was therefore neceffary to march in order of battle, and with the troops formed to receive them. During fix hours we had been unceafingly engaged with an enemy, undifciplined it is true, but brave, fanatic, and of tenfold our number, who attacked with fury and made an obftinate refiftance, never retreating unlefs in a body, infomuch, that it became neceffary to cut off in detail the detachments as they advanced. Worn out, and panting with the extreme heat, we

ſtopped a moment to take breath. We were utterly deſtitute of water, of which we never had ſtood ſo much in need. I recollect finding, in the heat of the action, a jug of water at the extremity of a wall, and that, not having time to drink, I poured the water on my boſom, to allay the burning heat by which I was tormented.

So long as our enemies kept poſſeſſion of their batteries, they retreated confidently, having freſh ſupplies of men on whom to depend. We were then of opinion that it was their intention to bring us, by a feigned retreat, within the reach of theſe batteries. But when they had loſt them, we conſidered that, as the ſmall wood to which they had retreated was become their laſt and only point of defence, they would either try the chance of a deciſive action, or would ſwim acroſs the Nile, or, laſtly, would join the

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Mamelukes, and difappear with them, which it was impoffible for us to prevent. On drawing near to the wood, we perceived, however, that it contained a large village, with a fortrefs belonging to the Mamelukes, provided with baftions and battlements, the approach to which was rendered ftill more difficult, as the enemy were provided with arms and ammunition of every defcription, which we found to have belonged to us, both by the diftance the balls were fent, and by the balls themfelves. We were employed for upwards of two hours in attacking this fortrefs on every fide, without being able to find any point from which the enemy did not affail us fuccefsfully. We had fixty men killed, and as many wounded. On the approach of night we fet fire to the houfes in the vicinity, took poffeffion of a mofque, cut off the enemy's retreat by the Nile, and endea-

endeavoured to mount afresh the guns we had recaptured. On their side, the besieged were employed in augmenting the number of their battlements, in constructing low batteries, and in pointing guns which they had not as yet brought into use. Several peasants, who had escaped both from the fire of the besiegers and from that of the besieged, found their way to us, and informed us, that on the day after the departure of General Desaix in pursuit of Murad-Bey, the Meccans, who had recently quitted the desert, attacked the *Italie* and the flotilla under her protection; and that, after a severe conflict of twenty hours, the crew of the commodore's bark had run her aground, and, from an apprehension of being boarded had set fire to her, and gone on board the small barks. That having been prevented by a gale of wind from keeping out to sea, and

being exhausted by the numbers and impetuosity of the assailants, the whole of these unfortunate men had been killed. They added, that since that time the Meccans had been employed in collecting all the means of attack and defence with which their conquest supplied them. That they had sunk one of our vessels, to force all those who should navigate the river to pass within reach of their battery; and had thus rendered themselves masters of the Nile. And, lastly, that, notwithstanding all the losses they had sustained in men, they were still very numerous and very resolute.

At day-break we began to batter the fortress with a view of making a breach: as it was, however, constructed of unbaked bricks, each bullet simply made a hole, without bringing down any part of the building. The flames at the same time made

no progreſs on account of the court-yards which ſeparated the principal building from the circumvallation. At nine in the morning the Mamelukes advanced with their camels, as if with a view to throw ſuccours into the place. A party was ſent out againſt them, and they retreated after a ſlight reſiſtance. General Beliard, perceiving that the reſult of the palliative means which had hitherto been employed had been a loſs of time and of men, gave orders for an aſſault, which was given and received with unexampled valour. The firſt circumvallation was opened under the enemy's fire; and, notwithſtanding the inceſſant diſcharges of muſquetry of the beſieged, by whom a ſortie was made, combuſtible matters were introduced which annoyed them in their retreat. One of their magazines blew up, and the flames extended them-

ſelves in every direction. As they were without water, they extinguiſhed the fire with their feet and hands, and even endeavoured to ſmother it by throwing themſelves on it. They were ſeen, black and naked, running through the flames, and reſembling ſo many devils in hell: I could not view them without an emotion of horror blended with admiration. Intervals of tranquillity ſucceeded, during which a ſolitary voice was heard, which was anſwered by ſacred hymns and warlike ſhouts. They then ruſhed on us from all ſides, notwithſtanding the certainty of death.

Towards the cloſe of the evening we ſtormed; and this operation was long and terrible. Twice we penetrated into the interior of the fortreſs, and twice we were driven from thence. I was not ſo much terrified by the loſſes we ſuſtained, as by the

reflection

reflection, that we had fresh efforts to make against an enemy whom we could not intimidate. I knew besides, that we were reduced to our last box of cartridges. In the latter of these two attempts to storm, Captain Bulliot, an officer of distinguished bravery, but rash, heedless, and imprudent, perished. Having a foreboding of his approaching dissolution, he drew me towards him, squeezed my hand, and bade me a mournful adieu. A moment after, I saw him dragging himself along on his hands and feet, and endeavouring to snatch himself from the jaws of death.

When night drew on, hostilities were suspended. As we had been engaged during two days, it was necessary to take a little breath.

Painful duties succeeded to the dangers of the combat. We heard the cries of the

wounded, to whom we had no remedies to adminifter, and on whom we could not perform the moft urgent operations for want of inftruments. Our loffes in men had been very confiderable, and we had ftill many enemies to fubdue. The neceffity of fparing our gallant troops made us fubftitute to an attack by ftorm the expedient of fetting fire to the enemy's buildings. For this purpofe two fires were kindled; pofts were ftationed at all the avenues; and thefe pofts were relieved from time to time to render the duty lefs fevere. As our danger required an exactnefs of fervice and difcipline, the troops repofed in battle array. Towards the middle of the night, an afs, followed by a fhe-afs, entered the quarters at full fpeed. In a moment every one was up and at his poft, amid a filence and a good order as ftriking as the occafion was ridiculous.

An unfortunate coptic biſhop, a priſoner in the fortreſs, made his eſcape, under ſhelter of the darkneſs of the night, with a few followers, and, having been expoſed in his flight to the fire of our advanced poſts, reached us, covered with wounds and contuſions. After having taken ſome refreſhments, he entered into a detail of the horrors from which he had juſt eſcaped. During the laſt twelve hours, the beſieged had been without water; their walls were heated through; their ſwollen tongues choked up the paſſage of the air; and, in ſhort, their ſituation was terrible. In reality, a few minutes after, and an hour before the break of day, thirty of the beſieged who were the beſt armed, forced a paſſage through one of our advanced poſts. At day-break our troops entered by the breaches the fire had made, and put to the ſword thoſe who, notwithſtanding they

were half roaſted alive, ſtill offered a reſiſt-ance. One of them, who appeared to be a chief, was brought to the general. He was in ſo ſwollen a ſtate, that in endeavouring to ſtoop to ſeat himſelf, his ſkin cracked in every part. "If," ſaid he, "I am brought "hither to be killed, I beg that you will "haſten to put me out of my miſery." He was accompanied by a ſlave, who regarded his maſter with ſo deep an expreſſion of grief, that I felt an eſteem both for one and the other. The dangers by which this ſlave was ſurrounded could not draw aſide for a mo-ment his affectionate concern for his maſter. He lived for him alone: he viewed him; and could ſee no other object. What looks! how tender and how deep a melancholy! How good muſt he have been, who was thus cheriſhed by his ſlave! However deplorable his lot, I could not help envying him who

was

was thus beloved. Recurring to my own ſituation, I ſaid to myſelf:—To ſatisfy an idle and vain curioſity, here I am, at the diſtance of a thouſand leagues from France, ſurrounded by my valiant countrymen, among whom I ſeek a friend. Yeſterday I was in the company of warriors, whoſe excellent qualities I eſteemed, and whoſe tranſcendant bravery I admired: to-day I attend their ſuneral; and to-morrow I ſhall abandon their remains on the ſtrange ſoil to which my ill fated ſteps have drawn me. It was but juſt now that a young man, replete with health and courage, braved the enemy, whom he was about to combat. I ſaw him attack where the danger was the moſt imminent: I ſaw him fall; and I heard the accents of grief which ſucceeded the expreſſions of his valorous impetuoſity. He called in vain; and as he dragged himſelf along, the fire commu-

communicated to the cartridges he had about him. His body and limbs were mutilated by the explosion; but still his voice was heard. I saw him expire; and to-morrow—to-morrow the post he held will console for his loss the companion by whom he is to be succeeded. O man! from what source do you draw your virtues, if such ignoble passions lurk in the most honourable of all professions? This is a cruel egotism which misfortune does not correct, and which becomes atrocious, seeing that danger forbids it to be concealed. In a state of warfare it is best appreciated, and its terrible effects more particularly felt. Let us direct our view, however, to the advantageous side of the profession.

On the morning of the 23d of March, General Beliard had the happiness to bestow a pardon on the prisoners he had made, and, by

by dismissing them, to make them acquainted with our generosity, and with the difference of our customs from theirs. Several of them, impressed with gratitude, and with tears in their eyes, asked permission to follow us.

The Mamelukes again made their appearance. On our going out to meet them, we found that this was a false attack which they had contrived, to give them time to load their camels with water. As we had put an end to the siege, we pursued them to the desert, where we had an opportunity to see all their forces collected together. They consisted of a thousand horses, as many camels, and about two thousand foot. The rest of their army was made up of the Meccans, whom they had so perfidiously drawn into their quarrel, and whom they afterwards abandoned in so dastardly a way. We fan-

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cied at firſt that they were about to penetrate into the deſert: they, however, took up their ſtation on the riſing ground, regulating their movements by ours, and having in their rear horſemen, who apprized them by diſcharges of muſketry of the halts we made, as well as of our advances. We felt more than ever of how little utility it was to purſue them when they would not fight, and how impoſſible it was to ſurprize them in a country where they had, on each ſide of the river, a retreat always open to them, and which would be ſecured to them ſo long as they ſhould be ſuperior in cavalry, and ſhould be able to protect their camels. We therefore gave up an uſeleſs purſuit, and very wiſely returned to ſecure and protect our barks. The remainder of the day was ſpent by the general in collecting together and putting on board the guns, ammunition, and

warlike implements which we had recaptured.

It is not until the paroxyſm is paſt that the ſick man finds the fever to have exhauſted his ſtrength. While the enemy had fired on us with our own powder and balls, we had not calculated how much of theſe articles it was neceſſary to expend, to exhauſt or recover what had been taken from us. But, now that we were more tranquil, we reckoned an hundred and fifty men in killed and wounded, that is to ſay, that we had gambled in a lottery in which every ſeventh ticket was a blank; and we found that, having been at the expence of ſupplying both ſides with ammunition, we had ſcarcely enough left to venture on a combat. Laſtly, we conſidered that the ammunition which was to ſupply our conſumption had been deſtroyed, together with all thoſe by whom

it was guarded; and that we were an hundred and fifty leagues from Cairo, where our neceſſities were altogether unknown. During a conflict of three days and two nights, I could not ſufficiently admire the coolneſs and intrepidity of General Beliard; and I was not leſs edified by his intelligence in the adminiſtration of affairs during the interval which followed this conflict, leſs brilliant in its nature than it was perilous. The ſlighteſt miſconduct would have put the finiſhing ſtroke to the misfortune of the loſs of our fleet, a diſaſter which his prudent intelligence could not repair, but the worſt conſequences of which it had at leaſt the effect of averting.

While the fate of ſuch of the inhabitants of Benhut as had remained quietly there was under diſcuſſion, as well as that of thoſe who had fled, I was not a little ſurpriſed at finding,

ing, at the poſts we occupied in the village, ſeveral women in the company of our ſoldiers, whoſe eaſe and gaiety I conſidered as an illuſion. I could not perſuade myſelf but that they were familiar with our language. Each of them had made her choice freely, and they all appeared perfectly well ſatisfied. Some of them were very pretty; and it was ſo novel a thing to be fed, attended, and well treated by their conquerors, that I am of opinion they would willingly have followed the army. *To belong* is ſo entirely their deſtiny, that nothing but a ſenſe of obedience could have induced them afterwards to return under the domination of their fathers and huſbands. In ſuch a ſtrange predicament, they are not received with that ſcrupulouſly inexorable jealouſy which characterizes the orientals. "It was owing to the war," ſay "they; we were unable to defend them.

"They

" They have submitted to the law of the " vanquishers, and are not more tarnished on " that account, than we are dishonoured by " the wounds we have received." In this way they again enter the harem; and there is never any altercation about what has passed. By such nice distinctions as these jealousy is refined, and becomes a noble passion, of which man may even boast.

We were informed that the sheik who commanded, or who rather exhorted the Meccans, had made his escape towards the close of the preceding night; and that during the siege he had prayed without fighting, quitting his retreat from time to time, and saying to his followers: " I pray heaven for " you; it is your duty to fight for the divi- " nity." It was after these exhortations that we heard the pious hymns, which were followed by warlike shouts, sorties, and general discharges of musketry.

On the 11th of April we marched towards Keneh, to aſcertain whether there were any Meccans in that quarter, and what was become of General Deſaix. Our progreſs was interrupted by thoſe particular winds, which, notwithſtanding the ſky is clear and unclouded, fill the air with ſo much ſand, that it is neither day nor night. Our barks not being able to proceed, we were obliged to ſtop within a quarter of a league of that fatal Benhute, the recollection of which was ſo diſtreſſing to us. At nine in the morning of the following day we reached Keneh, where we found letters from General Deſaix, who was ignorant of our ſituation, and of the loſs of our fleet. The city had been freed from our enemies, and the inhabitants came out to meet us.

Keneh has ſucceeded Kous, as Kous had ſucceeded Coptos. Its ſituation has this ad-

 vantage,

vantage, that it is immediately at the entrance of the desert, and on the bank of the Nile. It has never been so flourishing as the above-mentioned cities, because its existence is dated after the commerce of India had been diverted, and in a manner annihilated, either by the discovery of the route to India by the Cape of Good Hope, or by the tyranny of the government of Egypt. Its commerce being confined to the passage of the pilgrims, was very inconsiderable, unless at the time when the great caravan was on its route. It is here that the pilgrims of the oasis in Lybia, together with those of Upper Egypt, and a few Nubians, take in their supplies, providing not only what is necessary for the passage across the desert to Cosseir, but also for the journey to Gidda, Medina, and Mecca, as well as for their return from thence. They are under the necessity of doing this, because,

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the above cities being ſituated on a flinty deſert, the inhabitants have no other reſource except the gold they amaſs,* inſomuch that if, thanks to fanaticiſm, Mecca has continued to be a point of contact between India, Africa, and Europe, it has likewiſe become an abyſs, in which a population of an hundred and twenty thouſand ſouls abſorbs the gold of India, of Aſia Minor, and of every part of Africa.

Our movements towards Syria, and our war with Egypt, having ruined the caravan of 1798, and broken up, for the following year, all thoſe of Europe and of Africa, at the ſame time that the Indians could find nothing to barter for the commodities they had been at the pains of bringing to Mecca,

* At Mecca the pound of bread coſts from eight to ten ſous, (from four to five pence) which is an enormous price in the eaſt.

the commerce of that city, which had been falling off for a conſiderable time, muſt have ſuſtained during thoſe two years an almoſt irreparable loſs. In certain caſes, when the ſpring of an old machine breaks, the machine itſelf tumbles in pieces. It is therefore not ſurpriſing, that when intereſt was blended with fanaticiſm, the cruſade of Mecca ſhould have been got ready with ſo much celerity, and ſhould have oppoſed to us all the fury which the moſt violent paſſions can kindle.

General Beliard would have purſued the terrified Mamelukes and the vanquiſhed Meccans, but could not take the field without ammunition, of which we were entirely deſtitute. We were under the neceſſity, during our ſtay at Keneh, of fortifying the houſe in which we lodged, and which became the head-quarters. We could learn nothing

nothing of any of our detachments, not even of General Desaix; and the country was covered by enemies, dispersed in every direction, who either fell in with and murdered our emissaries, or prevented them from pursuing their way, keeping us in an isolated state, so as to excite no small apprehensions. The indefatigable Desaix had, in the mean time, pursued the Mamelukes to Siut, had forced Murad-Bey to seek shelter in the oasis, and had detached General Friand to the right bank of the Nile, to preserve a line parallel to his own, and to pursue Elfi-Bey and the dispersed bodies of Mamelukes. After these operations, he paid us a visit at Keneh, and afforded us the means of again taking the field.

We proceeded towards Kous, where the Meccans had posted themselves, and from whence they made incursions into the vil-

lages on both ſides the river, plundering and putting to death both Copts and Chriſtians, and carrying off others to oblige them to pay a ranſom. We quitted Keneh during the night, with an intention to ſurpriſe them, and, with a view of deceiving their advanced poſts, marched along the deſert. When we reached the village where they had been encamped, they were no longer to be found, having ſet out from thence at the ſame time that we had left Keneh. They had taken the deſert with the Mamelukes, and had repaired to the Kittah.

To take the deſert in Upper Egypt is, in the ſoldier's phraſe, not only to quit the cultivated grounds, and proceed to the ſands, by which they are bounded to the right and left, but alſo to penetrate into the ſtraits which croſs the two chains, hence theſe become poſitions, and, in a manner, poſts

which

which it is of importance to occupy and defend. The Mamelukes had the advantage of us, in consequence of being acquainted with all these positions, and of knowing the number of fountains which might there be met with. In the valley which leads from Cosseir to the Nile, there are four of these fountains; one at the distance of half a day's journey from Cosseir, the water of which is fit for camels only; the second, at the distance of a day's journey and a half from the preceding one; and next to that of the Kittah, at the same distance with the second. The latter is of great importance when the desert is to be occupied, since it is situated at a point where three roads branch out. The first of these roads, which runs to the south-west, leads to Redisi, where it terminates. The second, which runs almost due west, terminates at Nagadi; and the third,

which takes a north-weſt direction, leads to Birambar, where the fourth fountain is ſituated. From Birambar three roads of the ſame length lead to Kous, to Keft or Coptos, and to Keneh.

General Deſaix conceived the plan of blocking up the Mamelukes in the deſert, or at leaſt of cutting off their communication with the Nile, and of impeding their movements, preventing them from ſeparating their forces without a riſk of being cut off, and reducing them at length by famine. After having left three hundred men and ſeveral field-pieces at Keneh, he took up his poſition at Birambar, with ſeveral corps of infantry, cavalry, and artillery. On our ſide we were ſent, after having been reinforced by the twenty-firſt brigade of light-infantry, to occupy the paſſage of Nagadi. Rediſi was imprudently neglected; or, rather, apprehen-

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ſions were entertained that the troops might be too much diſperſed. If the ſtrait of Rediſi could have been occupied, all the Beys on the right bank of the river would have been forced to ſurrender; Murad-Bey would have been the only one we ſhould have had to purſue, and no further diverſions could have been dreaded.

The hopes of ſeeing Thebes, in the direction of which we were to march, made me joyfully turn my back once more on Cairo. It was my deſtiny to attach myſelf to thoſe who were to proceed the greateſt diſtance up the country; and I accordingly followed General Beliard. I was ſoon after to join once more General Deſaix; and on the evening before we parted we formed a thouſand projects for the future. Our adieus were, however, of a melancholy caſt; and on this occaſion our ſeparation was to me more diſtreſſing

diftreffing than ever. Could I imagine that, young as he was, it would fall to his lot to leave me in the career I had to run, and that I fhould remain to regret his lofs? We feparated, and I have never feen him fince. Our detachment had proceeded a league, when the brave Latournerie galloped up to me: he came back to bid me adieu. We had a great affection for each other; and, moved as I was by this mark of his tendernefs, I was, notwithftanding, ftruck by his emotion. We did not embrace each other without fhedding a few tears. The profeffion of arms may harden thofe whofe temperament is cold and frigid; but its horrors do not weaken the fenfibility of tender fouls. Connections formed amid the hardfhips and dangers of an expedition fuch as that of Egypt become unchangeable. The parties enter into a bond of fellowfhip; and when

this union is cemented ſtill more by a conformity of character, fate cannot deſtroy it without embittering the remainder of life.

CHAP-

CHAPTER XVI.

Ruins of Kous and in the Neighbourhood—Arrival at Nagadi—Wretched State of the Inhabitants—Dispersion and Massacre of the Meccans—Skirmish with the Mamelukes—Return of the Beys to the Desert—Arrival of the Army at Thebes—Temple at Karnak—Temple at Luxor—Pass through Salamieh and Esneh—Ancient Temple at contra Latopolis—Arrival at Chenubis, Ruins there—Temple at Apollinopolis.

IN passing through Kous, which I had not entered when I descended the Nile, I found in the middle of the square the summit of a large and well-proportioned gate, sunk into the ground to the cornice. This single fragment, which must have belonged

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to a great edifice, proves that Kous was built on the ſite of Apollinopolis parva. (See Plate IV. Fig. 2.) The bulk and magnitude of this ruin preſent a contraſt with all the objects that ſurround it, which ſpeaks more to the purpoſe on the ſubject of Egyptian architecture than would twenty pages of encomium or diſſertation. This fragment alone appears larger than all the reſt of the city.

In the village of Elmecieh, diſtant half a league from Kous, I found the baſes of ſeveral edifices of Egyptian free-ſtone, on which were hieroglyphics. I was in doubt whether theſe edifices had belonged to a ſmall city, which tradition has not handed down to us, or whether they anciently conſtituted an iſolated temple. Their ruins were too much degraded to enable me to give any idea of them by a drawing, or to make a plan of

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any of the parts. On proceeding half a league further, I ſaw more diſtinctly, on a ſmall eminence, the baſe of a temple abſolutely remote from any other ruins whatever. I could perceive three layers of large ſtones, which had formed a kind of pedeſtal extending to the pavement of the temple, in the front of which was a portico of ſix columns connected at the lower extremity of their ſhafts. Quitting this monument, we arrived, after an hour's march, at Nagadi, a large and dull village, ſituated at the entrance of the deſert. It had been plundered by a party of Mamelukes about twelve hours before. Previouſly to entering the deſert, we ſent off ſcouting parties, who took ſeveral camels, and killed thirty Meccans, ſtragglers. We proceeded to an encloſure, which had in the firſt inſtance been an entrenched convent, inhabited by Copts, which had

had afterwards become a mofque, and had been latterly employed as a burial ground. After having taken up our lodging within this enclofure, we employed ourfelves in driving away the bats, and in throwing down the tomb-ftones. A fortrefs, a defert, and tombs! We were furrounded by the moft difmal objects in the world; and if, with a view to banifh the melancholy impreffion with which thefe fcenes had infpired us, we occafionally went out at night to breathe for a few moments a purer air, our refpiration was the only found that difturbed the tranquillity of the void by which we were terrified. The wind, fleeting over this vaft horizon without meeting with any other objects than ourfelves, brought to our remembrance, in its filent motion, and amid the darknefs of the night, the immenfe and difmal vacuity by which we were furrounded.

A few merchants, who had had the good fortune to ſave their packets from the graſp of the Mamelukes, were not without their apprehenſions relative to us. Having been denounced by the ſheiks of Nagadi, they brought us preſents, and were ſtill more terrified by our refuſal to accept them. Being accuſtomed to the ſight of perſons covered with gold, by whom they were laid under contribution, and ſeeing us pretty nearly in the garb of a banditti of robbers, they fancied that we were going to plunder them. It was at the ſame time impoſſible for them to conceal their riches. Our portmanteaus having been captured on board the flotilla, we were in want of linen, and requeſted them to open their bales. Every hope on their ſide was now vaniſhed. We made choice of what would ſuit us, and aſked them the price of the quantity of

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each article we ſhould need. They replied, that they left this entirely to ourſelves; but on our perſiſting to know the loweſt price, which we paid them as ſoon as they had ſatisfied us, they were ſo ſurprized, that they felt their money, to be certain that what had paſſed was not a dream. Armed men, with the power in their hands, who paid!—they might have paſſed through every part of Aſia and of Africa, without meeting with any thing ſo extraordinary. From that moment we acquired their full eſteem and confidence. They came to prepare our breakfaſt, brought us Indian and Arabian ſweetmeats, and cocoa-nuts, and made us the beſt coffee it was poſſible to drink. This combination of wretchedneſs and luxury, this motley ſtate in which we lived, was not deſtitute of its ſhare of intereſt. There is no ſituation in the world which cannot boaſt its enjoy-

ments; and for this truth I appeal to the tombs of Nagadi.

Nagadi is a point which it is important to occupy; and muſt naturally become the moſt frequented route of the deſert, ſince it is the ſhorteſt by one day. A meſſenger who ſets out from Coſſeir may reach Nagadi in two days by the help of a dromedary, and in three days on foot. As nothing is to be found at Coſſeir, the merchant who lands there, in returning from Gidda, is very anxious to reach the bank of the Nile; and the moſt expeditious means appearing to him to be the beſt, he ſends to Nagadi to procure camels, which may reach him on the ſixth day. When we were there, the price was a dollar for the conveyance of an hundred weight of merchandize, each camel carrying four hundreds:—a price which varies according to the more or leſs flouriſh-

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ing ſtate of commerce, as does alſo that of the camels, which would at that time bring twenty dollars only, inſtead of ſixty which they coſt before our arrival in Egypt. This may give an idea of the diſtreſſed ſtate of affairs, and how much Mecca, Medina, and Gidda, muſt have ſuffered from the diſturbances in that country. We who boaſted that we were more juſt than the Mamelukes, committed daily and almoſt neceſſarily a great number of iniquitous acts. The difficulty of diſtinguiſhing our enemies by their exterior form and colour, was the cauſe of our continually putting to death innocent peaſants. The ſoldiers who were ſent out on ſcouting parties, frequently miſtook for Meccans the poor merchants belonging to a caravan, with whom they fell in; and before juſtice could be done them, which in ſome caſes the time and circumſtances would not

 allow,

allow, two or three of them had been ſhot, a part of their merchandize either plundered or pilfered, and their camels exchanged for ours which had been wounded. The gains which reſulted from theſe outrages, fell invariably to the ſhare of the bloodſuckers of the army, the civil commiſſaries, Copts, and interpreters; the ſoldiers, who ſought every opportunity to enrich themſelves, being conſtantly obliged to abandon and forget their projects, by the drum beating to arms, or the trumpet ſounding to horſe. The ſituation of the inhabitants, for whoſe happineſs and proſperity we were no doubt come to Egypt, was no better. If, through terror, they had been obliged to quit their houſes on our approach, on their return, after we were withdrawn, they could find nothing but the mud of which the walls were formed. Utenſils, ploughs, doors, roofs, every thing in

in ſhort, of a combuſtible nature, had been burned for cooking; and the earthen pots broken, the corn conſumed, and the fowls and pigeons roaſted and devoured. Nothing was to be found except the bodies of their dogs, killed in endeavouring to defend the property of their maſters. If we made any ſtay in a village, the unfortunate inhabitants who had fled on our approach, were ſummoned to return, under penalty of being treated as rebels who had joined the enemy, and of being made to pay double contributions. When they ſubmitted to theſe threats, and came to pay the *miri*, it ſometimes happened that they were ſo numerous as to be miſtaken for a body of men in arms, and their clubs conſidered as muſkets, in which caſe they were ſure of being aſſailed by ſeveral diſcharges from the riflemen and patroles, before an explanation could take

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place. Thoſe who were killed were interred; and the ſurvivors remained friends with us, until a proper opportunity preſented itſelf for retaliation. It is true that, provided they did not quit their dwellings, but paid the *miri*, and ſupplied the wants of the army, they not only ſpared themſelves the trouble of a journey, and avoided the unpleaſant abode of the deſert, but ſaw their proviſions eaten with regularity, and might come in for their portion of them, preſerving a part of their doors, ſelling their eggs to the ſoldiers, and having few of their wives and daughters raviſhed. In this caſe, however, the attachment they had ſhown us was conſidered as culpable, inſomuch that when the Mamelukes came after us, they did not leave them a crown piece, a horſe, or a camel; and frequently the ſheik of the village forfeited his life for the pretended partiality which

which was imputed to him. It was very neceſſary for theſe poor wretches that ſuch a ſtate of things ſhould terminate, and a new one be eſtabliſhed: but how could this be done while the Mamelukes refuſed to fight us, and while fanatic and half-ſtarved bands, ſuch as thoſe of the Meccans, reſorted to their ſtandard?

On the third day after our arrival at Nagadi, we learned that three hundred Meccans had come to a reſolution to penetrate, by carefully avoiding our troops, acroſs the deſert to Cairo, and there diſperſe themſelves among the immenſe population of that city, until they ſhould be enabled to return to their native country by the caravans, or until an opportunity ſhould preſent itſelf of revenging themſelves on us. We were told that their chief, when dying, had recommended to them to take this ſtep, and

had advifed them to avoid us in the field; but that the emir's nephew, who had fucceeded him in the command, being defirous to preferve his authority over them, and to poffefs himfelf of the remains of the plunder which the capture of the French barks had afforded, had perfuaded them that the treafures which had been found on board thefe barks were ftill in the fortrefs of Benhoute, and that as foon as our troops fhould be withdrawn to a fufficient diftance from thence, he would conduct them thither to recapture thefe treafures. In the mean time, as it was neceffary to obtain fubfiftence, he divided them into fmall bands, and fent them out to plunder the villages. In thefe predatory excurfions they were more or lefs fuccefsful, and of courfe the peafants, to whom they were a great annoyance, traced their fteps, and hunted them like fo many

wolves.

wolves. When they were fallen in with by our patroles, they were collected together, and ſhot and deſtroyed like animals obnoxious to ſociety. They were thus taught that Mahomet did not approve their cruſade, and that it had not been commanded by the Deity. Such is the ſubject of the engraving, Plate XXXVI. in which will be found a repreſentation of the catholic peaſants bringing them in during the night to the tombs where we had taken up our quarters.

On the ſecond of April, General Deſaix ſent for three hundred men belonging to our half brigade, and for fifty of our cavalry, to do duty at Birambar, where they were to relieve the troops he was about to detach from thence, and with which he was to proceed to ſtrengthen the poſt of Keneh. On the ſame day we learned by our ſpies that the Mamelukes and Meccans had quitted

ted the Kittah, and that it appeared by the route they had taken to be their intention to paſs out of the deſert, in a northern direction, at Keneh or at Samata. The beſt diſpoſitions were made on that ſide, either to oblige them to keep within the boundaries of the deſert, or to ſurpriſe them on their attempting to quit it. Theſe meaſures were, however, fruſtrated by the ardour of our ſoldiers, and by the confidence of their officers. The ſcouting party belonging to the detachment with which General Deſaix was proceeding to Keneh, fell in with the rear-guard of the Mamelukes, and charged. The corps of cavalry endeavoured to ſupport the ſcouts, but having imprudently left the infantry too much in the rear to be itſelf ſupported, was in a few minutes charged by the Mamelukes, who cloſed on our horſemen ſabre in hand. Two chiefs of battalion,

who had thus imprudently ruſhed on, loſt their lives, as did alſo twenty dragoons. The artillery would have been a great reſource, but was too far advanced. The Mamelukes, who dreaded its being called back, purſued their way, perfectly well pleaſed at having eſcaped the ambuſh we had laid for them, as well as becauſe they had ſaved their camp-equipage, and had proved to our horſemen that they manœuvred quicker, and underſtood the uſe of the back-ſword better than they did. Two hundred infantry and a ſingle field-piece would have converted this ſkirmiſh into a victory of great importance to us, at a moment when the beys and kiachefs, diſperſed and deſerted by a part of their Mamelukes, were greatly diſtreſſed. A heedleſs confidence, however, and a want of unity in the march, produced a want of combination in the attack; and Deſaix's orders

orders being either mifinterpreted or received too late, coft feveral brave officers their lives. Dupleffis, a chief of brigade, an officer of diftinguifhed talents, who had commanded in India, where he had rendered important fervices to his country, but who laboured under the odium of not having fignalized himfelf during the war of the revolution, feized with avidity the prefent opportunity, the firft which had prefented itfelf to difplay his prowefs. Forgetful of the orders he had received not to quit the impregnable pofition which he occupied on a height, he darted forward, without waiting for his men to come up, and penetrated into the midft of the enemy's ranks: then felecting the moft confpicuous of his foes, he galloped up to him. It was Ofman, the moft valiant of the beys: the two horfes encountered, and the one on which Dupleffis was mounted

recovered

recovered from the ſhock. He threw himſelf up on his ſaddle, took Oſman round the body, and ſtrangled him in his arms. During this conflict, which was worthy of the times of ancient chivalry, the unfortunate Dupleſſis, who was not ſupported, was ſurrounded, and pierced by a lance. He fell on the body of his adverſary, whom he ſtill held in his graſp. A kiachef, who was both a ſpectator and an actor in this combat, ſpoke to me with enthuſiaſm of the intrepidity of our officer.

Notwithſtanding it had been imprudently combined, the battle of Birambar was productive of conſequences which nearly brought about the diſſolution of the remainder of the coalition of the beys. By our ſpies who viſited the field of battle, we learned, that on the inſpection of four dead bodies, it appeared that two of the deceaſed had worn beards,

and

and were confequently kiachefs at leaft, the common Mamelukes being fhaved, and not being permitted either to marry, or to allow the beard to grow, until certain dignities have been beftowed on them, in confequence of which they become freed men. We were afterwards informed that one of thefe was Muftapha Kiachef Aboudiabe, that is to fay, father of the beard, each of the beys and kiachefs having a fighting name, which is either an honourable title or a nick-name, and which, as it is changed according to the circumftances, becomes alternately glorious or ridiculous. We were alfo told that Affan-Bey had received a gun-fhot wound in the neck, and a fabre wound in the arm; and that Ofman-Bey had loft nearly all his fingers. It was added, that twelve of the braveft of his Mamelukes had fallen; and, what was of ftill greater importance, that notwith-

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ſtanding the beys had had the advantage in this action, the dread of meeting with the infantry on their way, and of loſing their baggage, had induced them to turn back, and to ſeek ſhelter once more in the deſert. We learned from the perſons whom we had ſent to the Kittah, that they had returned thither to procure water, and had taken the road which leads to Rediſi, directing their courſe towards Upper Egypt. I muſt confeſs, that the military arrangements which were to bring me to the vicinity of Thebes, and to the right bank of the Nile, appeared to me to be the beſt; and accordingly I fancy I was the only one who was pleaſed at the order we received to go in purſuit of them, and to drive them beyond Rediſi. We ſet out from Nagadi, proceeding in front of the mountains, at the back of which the Mamelukes were on their march; and we learned by

by ſeveral of their followers, who had quitted them at the Kittah, that they were in a moſt deplorable condition, and would all of them periſh, provided they could not reach Rediſi within three days.

Towards noon we reached the territory of Thebes; and at the diſtance of three quarters of a league from the Nile, ſaw the ruins of a large temple, which has not been noticed by any traveller, and which may give an idea of the immenſity of that city, ſince, if we ſuppoſe that it was the laſt edifice on the eaſtern ſide, it is more than two leagues and an half diſtant from Medinet-Abu, where the moſt weſtern temple is ſituated. This was the third time of my paſſing through Thebes; but, as if fate had willed that I ſhould invariably take but a haſty view of what intereſted me ſo ſtrongly, my operations were confined on this occaſion alſo to

an endeavour to account for what I ſaw, and to a few notes relative to what I might delineate on my return, provided I ſhould then be more fortunate. I tried to aſcertain whether at Thebes the arts had had an epoch and a chronology. If a palace once exiſted in Egypt, the ruins of it were to be ſought at Thebes, which had been the capital; and if there were in reality epochs in the arts, the reſult of the firſt eſſays and rudiments muſt alſo have been in that city, luxury and magnificence having departed progreſſively from this point of ſimplicity, merely through the opulence and ſuperfluity by which they were accompanied. At length we arrived at Karnac, a village built on a ſmall part of the ſite of a ſingle temple, the circumference of which would, as has been ſomewhere noticed, require half an hour to walk round. Herodotus, by whom it was not viſited, has,

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notwithſtanding, given a correct idea of its grandeur and magnificence. Diodorus and Strabo, who examined it in its ruinous ſtate, appear to have given the deſcription of its preſent condition; and all the travellers by whom they have been copied, have miſtaken a great extent of maſſes for the meaſure of beauty, and, having allowed themſelves rather to be taken by ſurpriſe than charmed, on an inſpection of the largeſt ruin in the world, have not dared to prefer to this temple that of Apollinopolis at Etfu, that of Tentyra, and the ſimple portico at Eſneh. It is probable that the temples of Karnac and Luxor were built in the time of Seſoſtris, when the flouriſhing condition of the Egyptians gave birth to the arts among them, and when theſe arts were perhaps diſplayed to the world for the firſt time. The vanity of erecting coloſſal edifices, was the firſt conſidera-

tion

tion of opulence; and it was not as yet known, that a perfection in the arts beſtows on their productions a grandeur which is independent of their magnitudes. It has, in after ages, been aſcertained, that the ſmall rotunda of Vicenza is a finer edifice than St. Peter's at Rome; and that the ſchool of ſurgery in Paris is, in point of ſtyle, as grand as the pantheon in the above-mentioned city. In ſhort, a cameo may be preferable to a coloſſal ſtatue. It is therefore the ſumptuouſneſs alone of the Egyptians which is to be ſeen at Karnac, where not only quarries, but mountains are piled together, and hewn out into maſſive proportions, the traits of which are as feebly executed, as the parts are clumſily connected; and theſe maſſes are loaded with uncouth bas-reliefs, and taſteleſs hieroglyphics, by which the art of ſculpture is diſgraced. The only objects there which

are ſublime, both with regard to their dimenſions, and the ſkill which their workmanſhip diſplays, are the obeliſks, and a few of the ornaments of the outer gates, the ſtyle of which is admirably chaſte. If in the other parts of this edifice the Egyptians appear to us to be giants, in theſe latter productions they are geniuſes. I am accordingly perſuaded that theſe ſublime embelliſhments were poſteriorly added to the coloſſal monuments of Karnac.. It muſt however be granted, that the plan of the temple is noble and grand. The art of contriving beautiful plans, has, in architecture, invariably preceded that of the fine execution of the details, and has conſtantly ſurvived for ſeveral centuries the corruption of the latter, as is proved by a compariſon of the monuments of Thebes, with thoſe of Eſneh and Tentyra, as well as by that of the edifices of the reign

of Dioclesian with those of the time of Augustus.

To the known descriptions of this great edifice of Karnac should be added, that it was but a temple, and could be nothing else. All that exists at present in a somewhat entire state relates to a very small sanctuary, and had been disposed in this way to inspire a due degree of veneration, and to become a kind of tabernacle. On examining the *ensemble* of these ruins the imagination is wearied with the idea of describing them. Of the hundred columns of the portico alone of this temple, the smallest are seven feet and an half in diameter, and the largest twelve. The space occupied by its circumvallation contains lakes and mountains. In short, to be enabled to form a competent idea of so much magnificence, it is necessary that the reader should fancy what is be-

fore him to be a dream, as he who views the objects themſelves rubs his eyes to know whether he is awake. With reſpect to the preſent ſtate of this edifice, it is, however, neceſſary at the ſame time to obſerve, that a great part of the effect is loſt by its very degraded ſtate. The ſphinxes have been wantonly mutilated, with a few exceptions, which barbariſm, wearied with deſtroying, has ſpared, and on examining which it is eaſy to diſtinguiſh that ſome of them had a woman's head, others that of a lion, a ram, a bull, &c. The avenue which leads from Karnac to Luxor was of this latter deſcription; and this ſpace, which is nearly half a league in extent, contains a conſtant ſucceſſion of theſe chimerical figures to the right and left, together with fragments of ſtone walls, of ſmall columns, and of ſtatues. This point lying in the centre of the city,

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the part which was the moſt advantageouſly placed, there is reaſon to ſuppoſe that the palace of the grandees or kings was ſituated there. If, however, ſeveral traces which render this preſumable can be diſtinguiſhed, the fact is not proved by any extraordinary magnificence.

Luxor, the fineſt village in theſe environs, is alſo built on the ſite of the ruins of a temple, not ſo large as that of Karnac, but in a better ſtate of preſervation, the maſſes not having as yet fallen through time, and by the preſſure of their own weight. The moſt coloſſal parts conſiſt of fourteen columns of nearly eleven feet in diameter, and of two ſtatues in granite, at the outer gate, buried up to the middle of the arms, and having in front of them the two largeſt and beſt preſerved obeliſks known. It is, without doubt, flattering to the pomp of

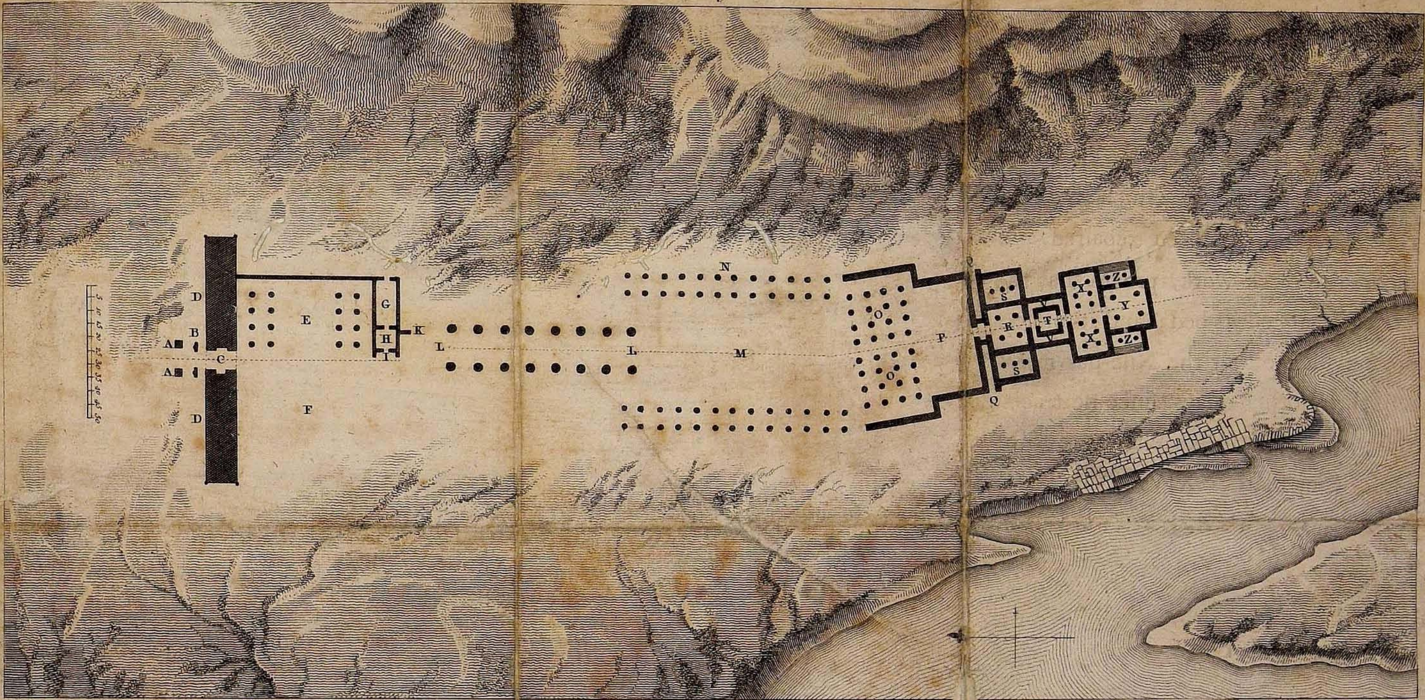
 Thebes,

Thebes, that the richeſt and moſt powerful republic in the world ſhould deem its means inſufficient, not to hew out, but merely to tranſport theſe two monuments, which are no more than a fragment of one of the numerous edifices of that aſtoniſhing city.

A peculiarity belonging to the temple of Luxor, is, that a quay, provided with an epaulment, ſecured the eaſtern part, which was near the river, from the damages the inundations might otherwiſe have occaſioned. The epaulment, which ſince its original ſtructure has been repaired and augmented in brick work, proves that the river has not changed its bed; and its preſervation is an evidence that the Nile has never been banked by other quays, ſince no traces of ſimilar conſtructions are elſewhere to be met with. (See Plates XXIV. XXII. and XXV. from drawings which I afterwards made.)

Notwith-

Fig. 2.



Engraved by S.I. Neele 352 Strand.

Plan of the Temple of Luxor.

Published by Longman & Rees, and Richard Phillips.

Notwithſtanding the exceſſive heat of the ſun at mid-day, I made a drawing of the gate of the temple, which is now become that of the village of Luxor. Nothing can be more grand, and at the ſame time more ſimple, than the ſmall number of objects of which this entrance is compoſed. No city whatever makes ſo proud a diſplay at its approach as this wretched village, the population of which conſiſts of two or three thouſand ſouls, who have taken up their abodes on the roofs and beneath the galleries of this temple, which has, nevertheleſs, the air of being in a manner uninhabited. (See Plate XXV.)

While I was buſied in making my drawings, our cavalry was engaged with a ſmall party of ſtraggling Mamelukes, two of whom were killed. The others eſcaped by ſwimming acroſs the river, leaving behind them

their

their arms, horſes, and accoutrements, which fell into our hands.

We ſet out at two o'clock, and reached Salamieh at the expiration of thirteen hours, as if this ſpace of time had been a regulation for our day's march, on all the occaſions when we were to paſs through Thebes. On the following day we again entered the deſert, and arrived before Eſneh pretty early. When ſetting out the day after, we found a ſmall temple in a very ruinous ſtate, but notwithſtanding, very picturesque and ſingular in its plan, as well as in ſeveral of its parts. It conſiſts of a portico with four columns in front, two pilaſters, and two columns in the depth, with a ſanctuary in the middle, and two lateral apartments, one of which, on the right hand, is ſcarcely to be traced. Within the portico is a door cut out of the lateral wall to the right, which muſt have been

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the entrance of a ſmall ſanctuary in which the offerings were made. Another ſingularity in the elevation of this edifice is, that the capitals of the two columns in the middle of the portico are in relief at their ſummit, while thoſe of the columns at each extremity are guttered. This building is in a more ruinous ſtate than any other I have ſeen in Egypt; and the decay has undoubtedly ariſen from the nature of the free-ſtone with which it was built. The parts which have been added are in a better preſervation, than in the other temples, a circumſtance which is to be aſcribed to the ſuperior quality of the bricks that were employed. The circumvallation of the temple, within which were contained the lodgings of the prieſts, may be pretty diſtinctly made out; and the whole of this encloſure is ſomewhat elevated above the very ſmall city of Contra-

Latopolis, which was built round the compaſs of this monument. It would appear to have been the practice that all the great cities on the bank of the Nile ſhould have a ſmall city or port on the oppoſite bank, which was probably placed there for the convenience of commerce. It was ſcarcely day-break when the troops were marched off; and I regretted that I had not a better opportunity to ſtudy the details of the plan of this temple, and of the buildings which had been poſteriorly added.

We proceeded in the direction of the mountains. In this latitude the part of Egypt which lies to the right is ſo narrow, that the chain extends, in two inſtances, to the Nile, inſomuch that our artillery was conveyed over with difficulty, and the greater part of the day loſt. On the other ſide of theſe paſſages the rocks become of a different

nature;

nature: we found ſeveral quarries of free-ſtone, which no doubt ſupplied materials for the city and temples of Chenubis, where we arrived an hour after. Within a quarter of a league of this city are two tombs hewn out of the rock, and a ſmall ſanctuary ſurrounded by a gallery, and having a portico in front. This monument is iſolated, and is ſituated in the ſame way as the catholic chapels which are to be met with in Europe. I next proceeded to view the temple or temples of Chenubis, the ruins of which, as well as thoſe of the city itſelf, are in ſo disjointed a ſtate, and ſo varied in their proportions, that it is very difficult to form any correct idea of their plan. The moſt conſiderable and moſt elevated parts conſiſt of ſix columns, the capitals of three of which belly out, while thoſe of the three others, which are parallel to them, are guttered, and

united by an entablature, as far as I could distinguish in passing in a bark. On a nearer view I could perceive, that they had not been built at the same time, and that those which have guttered capitals have never been finished, and were added as a gallery to the others. In the front of this fragment of ruins, to the south, are the bases of a portico, which also appears not to have been finished: and, in the same direction, is a block of granite which seems to have belonged to a colossal statue. In an eastern direction I met with a basin of water, the circumference of which is lined and decorated by a gallery formed of columns. In the western part of the city the gate of a sanctuary presents itself, together with two very minute fragments, of the nature of which I could not satisfy myself. In the front is a lining in the form of a quay on the Nile. Among these architec-

tural ruins are ſeveral ruins of ſculpture, among others a group of two figures coupled together, three feet in height, the heads of which have been broken off. What is moſt noticeable at Chenubis is an encloſure, the walls of which are built of unbaked bricks, and are of a conical ſhape, having at their baſe a thickneſs of upwards of twenty-ſeven feet. This extraordinary work, of which hiſtory makes no mention, is in many parts in an entire ſtate. I apprehended at firſt ſight, that it was of Arabic conſtruction; but as there are no ruins or traces of Arabic edifices on the ſite of Chenubis, it is preſumable that it is a work of high antiquity, and in this caſe there is no occaſion to conſtruct fortifications of any other deſcription in Egypt, with the exceptions of the jambs and embraſures, together with ſuch other parts as are expoſed to friction. In this inſtance all

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the great maſſes have completely reſiſted the ravages of time, and may ſtill be employed in any defenſive meaſures.

I was obliged to quit this ſpot precipitately, curſing the war, the ſoldiery, and the importance of their operations, which invariably forced me to abandon the moſt intereſting objects, to ſet out on the ineffectual purſuit of an enemy, who made more progreſs in one day than we did in three, and to whom we had left all the paſſages open. At day-break we were on foot, and at night at no greater diſtance than three-quarters of a league off Chenubis; it was for ſuch a purpoſe that this vain ſpeed had been ſo imperiouſly commanded. On the following day, after having marched during an hour, we found lying on the ground the remains of two temples, the plans of which could not be traced. Theſe ruins ſeemed to be depo-

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ſited there merely to point out the ſite of the city of Juno Lucina, which the infallible d'Anville has laid down in this latitude.

We at length reached by the deſert the paſs of Rediſi, which is a fourth opening from the Kittah. It has never been frequented by the merchants, and was fatal to the Mamelukes, almoſt the whole of whom, by taking this road, loſt their horſes, together with a part of their camels, a conſiderable number of their attendants, and twenty-ſix women, out of twenty-eight, whom the beys had taken with them. Their march was traced by their diſaſters, and by what they left behind them, tents, arms, clothing, the carcaſſes of horſes ſtarved to death, camels which were no longer able to ſupport their burden, attendants, and their women, whom they abandoned to their fate. I figured to myſelf the ſufferings of a poor

 wretch,

wretch, panting with fatigue, and expiring with thirſt, his tongue parched, and breathing with difficulty the hot air by which he is conſumed. He hopes that a few minutes repoſe will enable him to recover his ſtrength: he ſtops, and ſees his companions paſs by, calling on them in vain for help. The miſery to which each one is a prey, has baniſhed every compaſſionate feeling: they proceed on their way without caſting a look on him, and follow in ſilence the footſteps of thoſe who precede them. They are no longer in his view: they are fled, and his benumbed limbs, already overpowered by their painful exiſtence, refuſe their office, and cannot be ſtimulated to action either by danger or by terror. The caravan has paſſed: it appears to him like an undulating line in the wide expanſe, and, becoming at length a mere point, diſappears altogether like the

laſt glimmer of an expiring taper. He caſts around him his wild and frantic looks, but can ſee nothing: he turns them towards himſelf, and then cloſes his eyes to ſhun the aſpect of the terrible vacuity by which he is ſurrounded. He hears nothing but his own ſighs, and fate hovers over him to cut the final thread of his exiſtence. Alone, and without a companion to do him the laſt offices, he is about to expire without one ſingle ray of hope to adminiſter comfort to his departing ſoul; and his corpſe, conſumed by the parched and burning ſoil, will ſoon become a bleached ſkeleton, which will ſerve as a guide to the uncertain ſteps of the traveller who ſhall dare to brave the fate that has befallen him.

Such is the picture which the traces of the paſſage of the Mamelukes preſented to us; and it was by ſuch terrible ſpectacles as

the above that we aſcertained the direction of their march. They had paſſed three days before, and had proceeded up the country towards the cataracts, to repoſe themſelves in an iſland between Baban and Ombos. I have already ſpoken of the fertility of this iſland, in giving the particulars of my route to Syene. As the diſtreſſed ſtate in which they were, baniſhed from us all uneaſineſs as to their intentions, we gave up every further purſuit in a country where we could not expect to find any reſources, which the Mamelukes who preceded us muſt have entirely exhauſted.

We encamped, or, to ſpeak more correctly, halted near the river, where we took up our reſidence among tombs, and in the vicinity of two withered ſhrubs of acacia, the only indications we could find that the ſpot had been once inhabited, and that vegetation

getation had not altogether ceafed. All thofe who could be fpared were ordered to proceed to Etfu; and I accompanied this party, in the hope of viewing at my leifure the fublime temple of Apollinopolis, the moft beautiful of all Egypt, and, next to thofe of Thebes, the largeft. Being built at a period when the arts and fciences had acquired all their fplendour, the workmanfhip of every part is equally beautiful, the hieroglyphics are admirably executed, the figures more varied, and the architecture of a higher order than in the Theban edifices, the building of which muft be referred to an earlier age. My firft care was to take a general plan of the building. (See Plate XXIX. Fig. 11.)

Nothing can be more fimply beautiful than thefe outlines, nothing more picturefque than the effect produced in the elevation, by the various dimenfions belonging to each

member of the harmonious whole. This ſuperb edifice is ſeated on a riſing ground, ſo as to overlook not only its immediate vicinity, but the whole valley, (See Plate XXVIII.) and at the foot of this greater temple, but on a conſiderably lower level, is a ſmaller one, at preſent almoſt buried: the only part ſtill viſible is in a hollow ſurrounded with rubbiſh, where may be ſeen a little portico of two columns, and as many pilaſters, a periſtyle, and the ſanctuary of the temple incloſed within a pilaſtered gallery. A ſingle column, with its capital riſing from the ruins, to the height of forty feet above the portico, and the angle of a wall a hundred feet beyond, ſhew that there formerly exiſted a court in front of the temple. It is remarkable of this monument, notwithſtanding the ſkill diſplayed in its conſtruction, that the gates are not exactly in the middle of the ſides. It

ſeems

ſeems to have been dedicated to the evil genius, for the figure of Typhon is ſeen in relief on the four ſides of the plinth, which ſurmounts each of the capitals. (See Plate XXIX. Fig. 9.) The whole frieze, and all the paintings within, appear deſcriptive of Iſis defending herſelf againſt the attacks of this monſter. (See Plate XL. Fig. 1.) I made a ſketch of this ſmall temple, as connected with the great one, and another of the large one in a contrary direction. (See Plate XXVI. Fig. 1.) to ſhew its poſition with regard to the valley. I alſo increaſed conſiderably my collection of hieroglyphics, eſpecially by a drawing of the frieze within the portico, and beſides theſe I drew ſeveral capitals. (See Plate XXIX. Figs. 1,2,3,4,5.)

CHAPTER XVII.

Quit Etfu and arrive at Esneh—Return towards the Desert, and pass again through Thebes—Historical Bas-reliefs at Karnac, and various Ruins—Intense Heat—Pass by Guedime—Reach Kous—General Submission of the Inhabitants, and Arrival of the Caravans—Architectural Remains at Kous—Arrive at Keneh—Particulars concerning the Route to Tombuctoo—Hostile Assembly at Beneadi—Massacre there, and Plundering of the Caravan—Failure of Murad-Bey's Projects—Crocodiles—Ruins at Dendera—Ancient Zodiac.

GENERAL Beliard arrived during the second day, and we set forward the next morning. At a short distance from Etfu,

Etfu, I found by the water-ſide the remains of a quay, near the entrance of a large canal: no other ruin accompanies this fragment, but from the appearance of a double flight of ſteps down this mound to the river, it is obvious that it was not conſtructed ſolely for the purpoſe of reſiſting the current, but was probably a wharf for ſome town or village, now ruined and forgotten. We again paſſed by the ruins of Hieracopolis, of which I have already ſpoken, and ſpent the evening four leagues from Etfu. At one in the morning our march was recommenced, and on the 23d of March we arrived at Eſneh, worn out with fatigue. I had flattered myſelf with the hope of enjoying here a few days of repoſe, and was much diſappointed to find that the troops from Mecca, in conjunction with ſome Mamelukes, were on their march from Girgeh; that although they had been

met and beaten at Bardis, regardleſs of this check, they had nevertheleſs proceeded to Girgeh, to plunder the market: here one diviſion had been intercepted and beaten again, but the remainder were ſtill formidable, from their influence over the inhabitants: we were therefore obliged to return, and occupy the paſſes of the deſert. An entire night was ſpent in paſſing the river; and when our march began, the ſun was riſen, and was already very oppreſſive: we halted during the hotteſt part of the day, and reached Salamieh in the evening. On the following day, after marching a few hours, I came for the fourth time in ſight of the majeſtic ruins of Thebes, and made a drawing of them, from a ſituation where the buildings on each ſide of the river were viſible from Karnac to Medinet-Abu, occupying an extent of two leagues. (See Plate

XXIV.

XXIV. Fig. 1.) There is indeed another ruin to the north-eaſt, at the village of Guedime, half a league in the rear, which makes the whole length of the monuments and other remains of this ancient city equal to about eight miles. We ſtopped at Karnac, and I loſt no time in profiting of my good fortune. Not being able of myſelf to lay down the plan, or draw comprehenſive views of this mighty maſs of ruins, which at firſt ſight reſembles a heap of ſculptured mountains, I employed the two hours of our ſtay here in delineating the hiſtorical bas-reliefs, and in acquiring an accurate idea of the ſtyle and compoſition of this primitive ſculpture, and of the ſtate of the art at a period ſo remote, as to make it probable that theſe are ſome of its moſt ancient productions.

The fragments in the higheſt preſervation are

are the following: (See Plate LXI.*) A hero, perhaps a Pharaoh, Memnon, Osymandyas, or Sesostris, is seen combating alone from a car in pursuit of people at a distance, with beards, and clothed in long tunics; he forces them into a marsh, and obliges the rest to take shelter in a fortress. In the fragment, No. 1. he overthrows their chief, already wounded with an arrow. In No. 2. he returns bringing back the captives. In No. 4. he presents them fettered to the three divinities, by whose protection he has obtained the victory; for it is to be observed, that in all the above actions his arms are always accompanied and guarded by one or two emblematical hawks. The divinity to whom he presents the fruit of his conquest is that of Abundance, under the figure of

* Figured by mistake LXIII.

Priapus,

Fig. 5.

Fig. 1. Fig. 3.

Fig. 2.

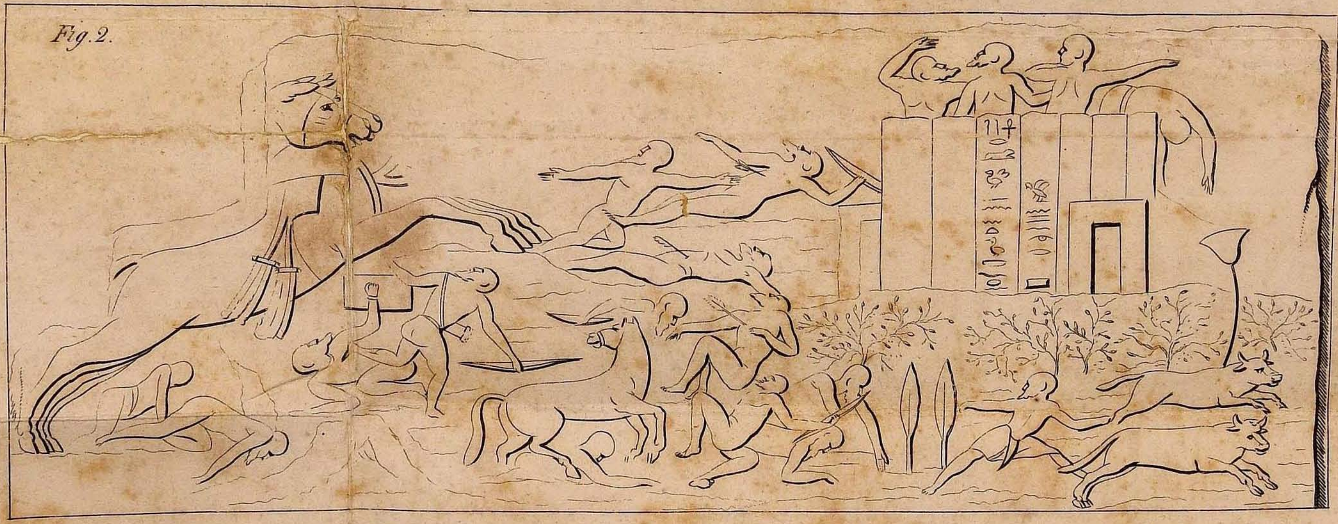

Fig. 4.

Hemsley Sc.

Priapus, holding a flail in his right hand, a god to whom the temple of Karnac, the largeſt in Thebes, and probably one of the greateſt and oldeſt that was ever conſtructed, is dedicated. From the very ſanctuary to the outer walls of the building this divinity is repreſented by his leaſt equivocal characteriſtic. It was alſo my wiſh to draw the bas-relief, repreſenting a ſhip navigated by ſailors, but it is too much dilapidated, and deſtitute of any accompaniments from which its latent meaning might be educed. The day was advancing, and we had not yet taken any refreſhment; heroes of romance might have done without, but to modern ſoldiers food is no ſuperfluity. While we were thus employed, the ſun gained ſo far upon us, that we reſolved to paſs the night at Karnac. I immediately returned to my intereſting taſk; I ſurveyed the ruins, and

was

was convinced that a whole week's application would not be too much to conſtruct a plan of the edifices comprehended in this ſingle circumvallation.

I had not time to meaſure by rule the extent of ground occupied by theſe buildings, but I found repeatedly that twenty-five minutes were required to encompaſs them on full trot. The paſſage through the circumvallation or exterior wall was by ſix gates that yet remain, three of which were preceded by avenues of ſphinxes: within the circuit was contained not only the great temple, but three others entirely diſtinct from it, having each its own gates, porticoes, courts, avenues, and boundary wall—What was their uſe? Were they temples or palaces? Were their ſovereigns lodged in the porticoes of the temples, or were their palaces ſimilar in conſtruction to the ſacred edifices; or,

perhaps,

perhaps, from their ſuperior lightneſs, unable to reſiſt the injuries of time? It is at leaſt obvious, that if they did really inhabit theſe buildings, which from their diſtribution may be regarded as dependencies of the great temple, their accommodations were by no means to be envied. Large courts with open galleries, and porticoes formed by narrow intercolumniations, could not be very pleaſant to live in: the few chambers that there are, of ſmall dimenſions, deſtitute of air and light, and covered with pious allegories, were but little calculated to attract the eye or pleaſe the imagination. Another objection is, that ſome of theſe dark chambers contained little tabernacles, in which, no doubt, were incloſed either the figure of the divinity or the particular animal emblematical of it, or the ſacred treaſure; and to any of theſe none but the prieſts would be admitted. Probably,

bably, therefore, the vaſt circuit of theſe buildings was occupied by numerous colleges of prieſts, the depoſitaries of the ſcience, the power and the influence of the country.

What monotony! what melancholy wiſdom! what auſtere gravity of manners! I ſtill admire with awe the organization of ſuch a government; its ſtupendous remains yet excite the mingled ſenſations of reſpect and dread. The divinity, in ſacerdotal habits, holds in one hand a hook, and in the other a flail; the former, no doubt, to reſtrain, and the latter, to puniſh: every thing is meaſured by the law, and enchained by it. The fine arts, ſubject to the ſame ſevere reſtrictions, bend under the weight of fetters, and their ſoaring genius is pinioned to the earth. The unveiled emblem of generation traced even in the ſanctuary of the temples, announces, that to deſtroy pleaſure it was converted

converted into a duty: not a ſingle circus, not a ſingle theatre, not a ſingle edifice for public recreation; but temples, but myſteries, but initiations, but prieſts, but ſacrifices; ceremonies for pleaſures; for luxury, ſepulchres. Surely, in the evil hour of France, ſome demon evoked the gloomy ferocious ſoul of an Egyptian prieſt to animate the monſter, who imagined, by making us ſullen, to render us happy.

After traverſing the building for the purpoſe of gaining an accurate idea of its architectural details, I found myſelf at the ſouthweſtern extremity of the circumvallation, where the other ſmaller temples are ſituated. I entered one of them, and was ſtruck with a new ſenſation of aſtoniſhment. Behind two buttreſſes is an open portico of twenty-eight columns, ungraceful in its proportions, but rendered impoſing by its ſeverity of ſtyle

ſo true is it in architecture, that where the lines are long, few, and uninterrupted, the effect is always grand and ſtriking. At the end of this firſt portico, is a large open door, leading to a ſecond colonnade of eight pillars in two rows, ſtill more grave in their proportions, and whoſe character is rendered more terrible by their awful depth of ſhade; beyond this is a long narrow paſſage, ſucceeded by two others, each darker than the preceding, and at the extremity of all is a ſubterranean ſanctuary, which appears to the imagination as the aſylum of terror, the temple of the Eumenidæ. The whole of this monument is ſeparated from the reſt by a boundary wall. Having made a drawing of the exterior of this edifice, I was preparing to make one of the interior, which might in ſome meaſure partake of the character of its great original, when I found myſelf ſo much

overcome with fatigue, and the terribly ſublime emotions that I had experienced, as to be quite incapable of the taſk. I copied, however, the bas-reliefs, and the hieroglyphics. I made myſelf maſter of the relative poſition of the various parts, and executed a general view of the temple, taken from the eaſtern gate, where the gigantic ruins of the more remote buildings appear by reflection in the diſtance. (See Plate XXI. Fig. 1.)

The heat was ſo intenſe, that my feet were ſcorched through my ſhoes, and I was unable to ſit down for the purpoſe of drawing, till I had placed my ſervant between the ſun and myſelf, in order to intercept the rays, and procure me a little ſhelter: the very ſtones were become ſo hot, that wiſhing to collect ſome carnelian agates, which are found in great abundance in the outſkirts of the town, I was obliged to lay each haſtily

in my handkerchief as if it was a hot-coal. Haraſſed and fatigued, I betook myſelf to a ſmall Arabian tomb, which was to ſerve for our night's lodging, and which appeared to me a delicious *boudoir*, till I was told, that in our former march through this place a French ſoldier, who had loitered behind the column, was ſtabbed in this very ſpot: the marks of the aſſaſſination yet viſible upon the walls filled me with horror; nevertheleſs, I lay down, I ſlept, and ſo weary was I, that I could even have repoſed on the very carcaſs of this ill-fated victim.

We departed on the morrow before daylight; and I carried with me this time more drawings and fewer regrets; it was not, however, without a ſigh, that I quitted Thebes, perhaps for ever; its diſtance from all our poſts, the ferocity of its inhabitants, and the tribute being paid, all forbade me to

indulge the hope of revifiting it. I had not yet feen the tombs of the kings, but I could not enter upon the fearch without a guard of foldiers, and the troops were unhappily fatigued beyond meafure by the repeated forced marches that they had undergone; I was, therefore, obliged to truft to future favourable circumftances, and in the fequel fortune was propitious to my wifhes. At day-break I found myfelf fufficiently near Guedime to fee the ruin there, confifting of four columns, ftill furmounted by three maffy ftones of the entablature, in front of which are vifible the foundations of two buttreffes, at prefent a fhapelefs mafs of fragments. Thefe are the only remnants of a monument, whofe chief merit at prefent is to ferve as a fixed point from which to compute the vaft extent of the Theban monuments. At noon we reached Kous, where

we were informed that the troops ſent againſt us from Mecca had been routed by all our detachments, and in their flight had been intercepted at Tata by our cavalry, who, to ſecure the tranquillity of the country, had put them entirely to the ſword: the ſupply of their neceſſary wants had rendered them a ſcourge to the country, and they were hunted down by the natives like wild beaſts.

The inhabitants of Kous, always well diſpoſed, who had received us courteouſly, even when we were ſuppoſed to be marching to certain deſtruction, came out to meet us, and treated us as conquerors.

The ſhereff of Mecca had alſo ſent to General Deſaix, proteſting againſt the expedition of his countrymen, with a propoſal of alliance and friendſhip; the towns of Gidda and Tor alſo requeſted peace, and

Coſſeir

Coffeir offered to furrender. We learnt that Solyman and another Bey had gone with their families into the oafis, and could now judge of the extremity to which the others were reduced by the fubmiffion of the inhabitants, the voluntary payment of the tribute, the coming in of the Arab chieftains, and a certain gaiety before unfeen fpread over the country, which gave me hopes that, for the future, we might promote at the fame time the happinefs of the natives and the intereft of the colonifts.

Defaix iffued a proclamation, announcing that the corn lands whofe crops while green had been eaten up either by the Mamelukes or French, fhould be excufed from the tribute; an equitable regulation, which, from its novelty equally furprized and pleafed the cultivators; and the good-will of the inhabitants was entirely conciliated, by allow-

 ing

ing them to dreſs according to their own fancy and their means, without any rank's forfeiting its peculiar privileges. The merchants of Coſſeir, who had hitherto concealed themſelves, now quitted their town, and came to purchaſe corn at Keneh; thoſe of Gidda arrived in their veſſels loaden with coffee, and both paid without reluctance the duties, which were no longer arbitrary. In fine we began to ſee money arrive without the uſe of bayonets, and our magazines and parks to be ſtored with ſtraw, barley, and cattle; while the village chiefs promiſed us, in the name of the cultivators, that the country now barren and dry ſhould become the next year verdant with herbage, and covered with crops of which the tribute alone ſhould ſurpaſs the whole of this year's harveſt.

The caravans alſo ſent their deputies, re-

queſting

queſting paſſports; the Mamelukes, abandoned by their maſters, came in to us with their arms, deſiring to be enrolled among our troops, and we enjoyed the ſatisfactory ſpectacle of a government univerſally hated, ſinking without reſource in its diſtreſs, and deprived even of the poſſibility of its future re-eſtabliſhment.

At an equal diſtance from Elfi-Bey, who had deſcended the river, and from Oſman, who had returned up it as far as Syene, we reſted ourſelves a few days at Kous, where I made a drawing of the top of a gate, the only remnant that is left of the ancient Apollinopolis parva. (Plate IV. Fig. 2.) This ſingle fragment appears larger than all the reſt of the town, and offers a ſtriking picture of the eternity that characterizes the Egyptian architecture. The other parts of the edifice are doubtleſs buried under the mountain of

rubbiſh

rubbiſh that is occupied by the modern town. I copied alſo the remains of an inſcription, engraved on the liſtel of the ſame gate. (Plate IV. Fig. 1.) The inſcription itſelf was poſterior to the monument, and afforded a curious example of ſkilful flattery in a prefect of Upper Egypt, at the time of the Ptolemies, who, on account of ſome repairs twenty or thirty centuries after the firſt building of the temple, ventured to dedicate it to his maſters, to inſcribe the gate with their names, and thus tranſmit them to poſterity. The glory of kings can indeed only reſiſt the flood of time by being exalted on the monuments raiſed by the arts; deprived of this ſupport, they are buried in the overwhelming ſtream, leaving behind them only empty names that hiſtory repeats in vain. What would become of Achilles without his immortal monument, the Iliad of

of Homer; or of Sesostris, without the remains of these his coeval temples? The names of Pericles, of Augustus, of the Medicæan Lorenzo, are illuminated by the torch of literature and the arts; while the tombs of Genseric, Attila, Tamerlane, and the other barbarian destroyers, are lost among the common ruins of time.

I found in the fields near the lower part of the town, a fragment of a tabernacle, or monolithic temple, which, after having been broken, had served for the drinking trough to a cistern; one of its window frames still remaining entire, bore a hieroglyphical inscription, admirably executed, and in a perfect state of preservation: I copied it; for such a fragment as this is of itself a monument, an irrevocable attestation of the culture and intelligence of the nation to which it formerly belonged. (Plate LX. Fig. 2.)

We left Kous, and arrived at Keneh, where we found a number of merchants of all nations. By intercourſe with the natives of different countries, remote diſtances ſeem to be contracted; and when we begin to reckon the days required for the journey, and the neceſſary means of effecting it, the ſpace to be paſſed over ceaſes to be immenſe; we no ſooner find ourſelves actually engaged, than many difficulties, formidable at firſt, inſenſibly diminiſh, and at length diſappear. The Red Sea, Gidda, Mecca, ſeemed like neighbouring places to the town where we were; and India itſelf was but a ſhort way beyond them. In the oppoſite direction the oaſes were actually no more than three days journey off us, and ceaſed to appear to our imagination as an undiſcovered country. From oaſis to oaſis, by eaſy marches of one or two days, we arrive at Sennaar, one of the

the capitals of Nubia, which ſeparates Egypt from Abyſſinia and Darfur, the latter of which countries is in the road to, and trades with, Tombuctoo, whoſe inhabitants are ſtill the chief object, in Africa, of European curioſity, and whoſe very exiſtence was a ſhort time ago problematical. It is true, indeed, that though the journey to Darfur may be accompliſhed in forty days, a hundred more are required to reach Tombuctoo. A merchant whom I found at Keneh, and who had often been to Darfur, where the caravans arrive from Tombuctoo, gave me the following itinerary, which I ſubjoin in the note.* Here alſo we found many

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* *Route from Siut to Darfur and Sennaar by Dongola.*

From Siut by the deſert, in a ſouth-weſterly direction, four days are required to reach Korg-Eluah, the moſt populous and beſt cultivated of the oaſes: here is a ſtream of freſh water, which, riſing out of the ground, is,

Turkiſh, Meccan, and Mooriſh merchants, come to exchange coffee and Indian cottons for corn.

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is, after a ſhort courſe, loſt in it again: there is a fortreſs, and a large village.

From Korg-Eluah to Bulague, another oaſis, half a day's journey: here is a ſmall village, and well taſted water, which, however, is apt to diſagree with thoſe who are not accuſtomed to it.

From Bulague to El-Bſaſtah, one day: brackiſh water.

From El-Bſaſtah to Beris, half a day's journey. Here there is a large village, and tolerably good water.

From Beris to El Mekh, two hours. Here it is neceſſary to lay in a ſtock of water, for the oaſes ceaſe at El Mekh, and nothing but ſalt or brackiſh water is to be met with for ſeveral days. Travelling from this place in the ſame direction as at firſt, after ſix days, we reach Deſir.

From Deſir to Selima, three days: ſalt water, but not quite undrinkable.

From Selima to Dongola, where we again meet with the

Notwithſtanding theſe favourable appearances, and the quiet ſubmiſſion of the ſuperior claſſes, the maſs of the nation, who had nothing to loſe, conſidering our equity as indicative of our weakneſs, allowed themſelves to be ſeduced by the beys, who, taking ad-

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the Nile, four days. Here a freſh ſupply of water and proviſions muſt be laid in.

From Dongola, bearing away more to the weſt for four days, we arrive at El Goyah.

From El Goyah to Zagaoneh, ſix days: brackiſh water.

From Zagaoneh to Darfur, ten days, without meeting with either village or water.

The other route from Dongola to Darfur requires ſeventeen days march in a ſoutherly direction to Sennaar, and hence to Darfur twelve days travelling due weſt.

It is above all eſſential, in ſuch a journey, to be ſufficiently well mounted, to keep up with the caravan, as this ſtops for no one, and he who goes ſlower than the reſt is neceſſarily left behind.

vantage

vantage of their religious prejudices, and the influence which the high tone of command has over thofe that have been long accuf-tomed to obey, began afrefh to organize an oppofition, eight or ten leagues from our head-quarters.

Beneadi, a town two miles long, and containing twelve thoufand inhabitants, al-ways rebellious againft every government, from its fituation on the verge of the defert, had called in the Arabs: a caravan from Darfur was alfo juft arrived here. Murad-Bey, profiting of this concurrence, had found means, by working on their religious fana-ticifm, on a fudden to excite the whole to arms. Immediately upon intelligence of this being received, General Davouft was dif-patched with the cavalry to Beneadi: the common tranquillity required the deftruc-tion of a volcano that was inceffantly threat-

ening

ening us: the troops, animated with the hope of plunder, in an inſtant ſwept away the whole village: thoſe of the inhabitants that eſcaped joined the remnant of the Meccans, marched againſt Miniet, and were put to the ſword in a ſecond encounter.

Among the booty of Beneadi was an immenſe number of women, partly inhabitants of the place, and partly ſlaves brought by the caravan: thoſe to whoſe ſhare they fell in the diviſion of the ſpoil ſold them in open market; from one they paſſed to another, riſing in value with every change of maſters, till at length they were purchaſed again from their laſt owners by their fathers, their huſbands, or their former maſters: meek and modeſt, they ſubmitted with impaſſive reſignation to their lot, and were reinſtated in their domeſtic relations without any queſtions being aſked. A conduct ſo little con-

ſonant to the uſual habits of Mahomedan jealouſy, inducing us to expreſs our ſurprize, we were anſwered very ſenſibly, "What "fault of theirs is it that we have not been "able to defend them?"

Murad-Bey, who had arrived by way of the deſert, to cut off our communication with Cairo, ſaw the attack and deſtruction of his allies, without daring to come to their aſſiſtance: he contented himſelf with taking meaſures for holding us in check, without much riſk to his own troops, waiting in the mean while for more favourable circumſtances: the preſent was not the time for him either to propoſe or to accept terms of accommodation, for what community of political or commercial intereſts was there between us, on which to baſe the reſpective guarantee of mutual good faith! Accuſtomed, beſides, to unforeſeen reverſes of fortune, his

hopes

hopes were ſtill kept alive. The abſence of the commander in chief, the employment of part of our forces in the Syrian expedition, the conſtant formation of conſpiracies, all forbade him to deſpond: nor was he wanting to his own fortune, in taking every means of organizing and keeping up the ſpirits of his party. He perſuaded the emir Adgi at Cairo, who was under orders to join the commander in chief in Syria, to aſſemble a body of men ſufficient to ſeize Belbeis, which lay in his road, by a coup-de-main; thus to cut off the retreat of the army, to raiſe the country upon our ſcattered forces, and oblige us to concentrate our troops by abandoning Upper Egypt. This promiſing ſcheme terminated, however, only in the ruin of the emir: ſome ſuſpicious movements diſcovered his deſigns, and to avoid being arreſted by the garriſon of Belbeis, he was

 obliged,

obliged, with a few followers, to hurry to the desert. The detection of this conspiracy, the massacre of Beneadi, and the second defeat at Miniet of those who had escaped the massacre, again unhinged the projects of Murad-Bey, and obliged him to retire to the oases.

While at Keneh I had to regret the death of a crocodile, which some peasants having surprised asleep, had bound and brought alive to the officer who commanded during the absence of General Beliard: the animal being yet young, and fettered by an iron circle between the shoulders and belly, could not be very formidable; we might have observed and become acquainted with his habits, which are unknown even in his native country, so much is he an object of terror! It would have been curious to see his manner of eating, to ascertain what kind of food he lives on,

whether

whether maſtication is neceſſary to him, and if ſo, how it is effected in an animal poſſeſſed only of cutting teeth; how his throat ſupplies the place of a tongue, and whether advantage might be taken of his voracity to render him tame. He might, perhaps, have been brought alive to France, and might there have been ſubmitted to the examination of the naturaliſts and the curioſity of the Pariſians, doing homage to the nation as a trophy of the conquered Nile. In my wanderings on the banks of this river I have ſeen a great number of all ſizes, from three to twenty-ſix or twenty-eight feet in length: many officers worthy of credit aſſured me that they met with one no leſs than forty feet long. They are by no means ſo ferocious as is pretended: their favourite reſorts are the low iſlands of the river, where they are ſeen baſking in the ſun (the moſt intenſe

heat of which appears highly grateful to them) by numbers at a time, aſleep and motionleſs as ſo many logs of wood, ſurrounded by birds, who appear totally unmindful of them. What is the food of theſe large animals? Many ſtories are related of them, but we have not yet had an opportunity of verifying a ſingle one. Daring even to imprudence, our ſoldiers ſet them at defiance; even I myſelf bathed daily in the Nile; for the tranquil nights that I thus obtained rendered me regardleſs of dangers which we had not as yet verified by a ſingle fact. If the crocodiles had devoured a few of the carcaſſes which the war left at their diſpoſal, ſuch a food, it might be imagined, would only excite their appetite, and engage them to purſue when alive ſo favourite a prey; and yet we were never once attacked by them, nor did we ever meet with a ſingle crocodile at a diſtance

diſtance from the water. Hence it appears probable that they find in the Nile itſelf a ſufficient quantity of eaſily procurable food, which they digeſt ſlowly, being, like the lizard and ſerpent, cold-blooded and of an inactive ſtomach. Beſides, having in the Egyptian part of the Nile no enemies but each other and man, they would be truly formidable, if, covered as they are with an almoſt impenetrable defenſive armour, they were alert and ſkilful in making uſe of thoſe which nature has given them for attack. When I left Keneh, General Beliard had a young one in his poſſeſſion no more than ſix inches long, which yet already began to ſhow its native ferocity. I was afterwards informed by the general, that it lived four months without eating, without appearing to ſuffer, without appearing to grow, or to become

 leaner,

leaner, and to the laſt was as untractable as ever.

Ammianus Marcellinus, who wrote in the time of Julian, has recorded, that, from the remoteſt antiquity, the Egyptians conſidered themſelves as dupes, if they paid their debts without being compelled to it by actual force or fear: fortunately for me, the people of Dendera had not degenerated from their anceſtors.

From the window of my apartment at Keneh, I ſaw the ruins of Tentyra, two leagues off, on the other ſide of the Nile; thoſe ruins, the recollection of which inſpired me with ſo much intereſt, mixed at the ſame time with regret, at not having had an opportunity to make a drawing of a zodiac, which clearly proved the deep knowledge of the ancient Egyptians in aſtronomy.

The

The Denderites refuſing to pay the tribute, a hundred men were ſent thither, whom I accompanied. From Dendera to the ruins of Tentyra is only twenty minutes ride; this latter place, from its ancient monuments, is called by the Arabs, Berbeh. We arrived at the town in the evening, and the next morning, with a guard of thirty men, I went to the ruins, and this time took poſſeſſion of them in the plenitude of repoſe and quiet. I was firſt of all delighted to find that my enthuſiaſtic admiration of the great temple was not an illuſion produced by the novelty of its appearance, ſince after having ſeen all the other Egyptian monuments, this ſtill appeared the moſt perfect in its execution, and conſtructed at the happieſt period of the arts and ſciences: every thing in it is laboured, is intereſting, is important. It would be neceſſary to draw the whole in its moſt minute detail,

to

to poffefs ourfelves of all that is worth carrying away; nothing has been made without fome end in view, without contributing in a greater or lefs degree to the perfection and harmony of the whole. As my time here was very limited, I began with what had been the principal object in my journey hither, the celeftial planifphere, which occupies part of the ceiling of a little apartment, built over the nave of the great temple. The floor being low, and the room dark, I was able to work at it only a few hours in the day; but neither this, nor the multiplicity of the details, and the great care required in not confounding them by the neceffity of viewing them in fo inconvenient a pofture, abated my ardour: the defire of bringing to the philofophers of my native country the copy of an Egyptian bas-relief of fo much importance, made me patiently endure the

tormenting

Fig. 1.

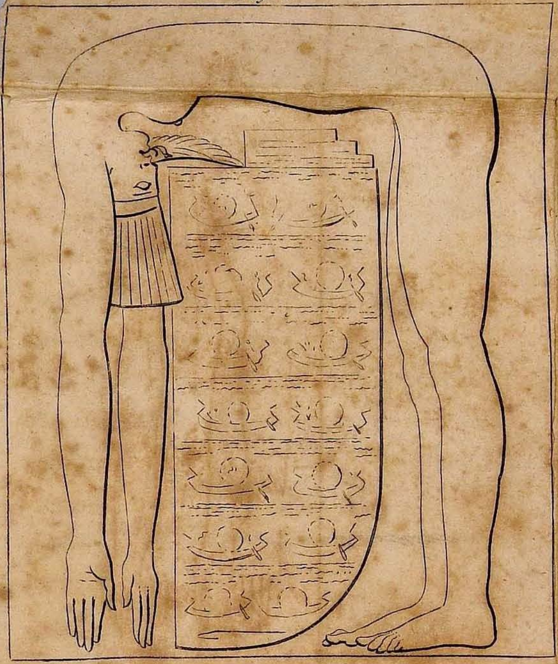


Fig. 2.

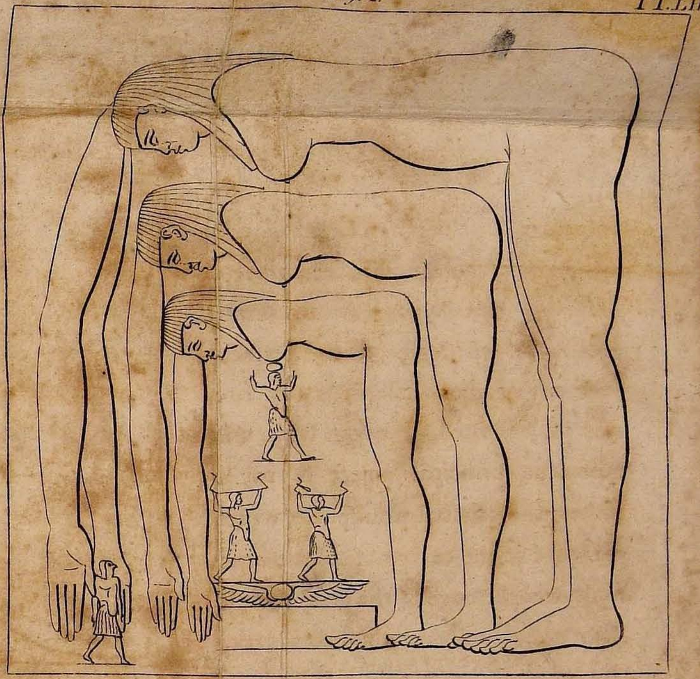
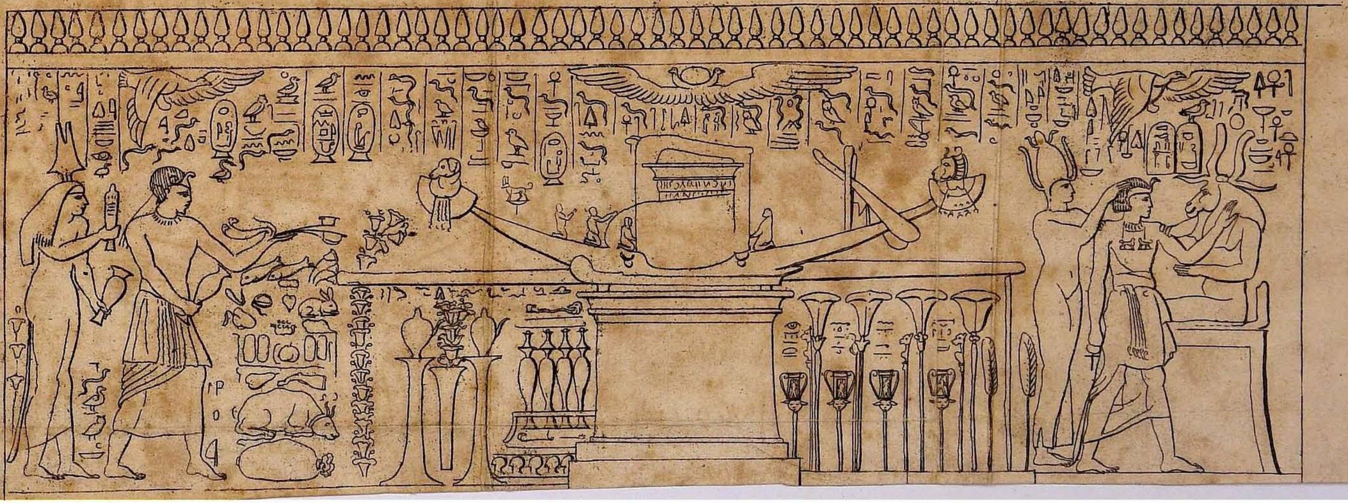


Fig. 3.



tormenting poſition required in its delineation. (See Plate LVIII.) I copied alſo the reſt of the ceiling, which is divided into two equal parts, by a large figure that ſeems to be an Iſis: her feet reſt upon the earth, her arms are extended towards heaven, and ſhe appears to occupy all the ſpace between. In another part of the ceiling is a large figure, probably repreſenting heaven, or the year, with its hands and feet on the ſame level, and enfolding with the curvature of the body fourteen globes, placed on as many boats, diſtributed over ſeven bands or zones, ſeparated from each other by numberleſs hieroglyphics, but too much covered with ſtalactites and ſmoke to allow of being copied. I took, however, a ſketch of this compartment of the ceiling, in order to give a general idea of its form. (See Plate LIII. Fig. 1. and the general plan of this apartment, Plate LVIII.

in

in which the relative poſition of the ſeveral objects is laid down.)

Behind this firſt chamber is a ſecond, which receives light only through the door; this alſo is covered with moſt intereſting and admirably executed hieroglyphical pictures. Notwithſtanding the darkneſs, and the difficulty of getting what little light there was to fall at the ſame time on the bas-relief and my paper, I made drawings of almoſt all that was contained on the ceiling or the walls. (See Plate LIII. Fig. 2, and Plate XL. Figs. 5, 6, 7, and 8.) It is difficult to imagine what could be the uſe of this little edifice, ſo carefully finiſhed and ornamented with pictures ſo evidently ſcientific: thoſe on the ceilings appear to relate to the motions of the heavenly bodies, and thoſe on the walls have probably ſome reference to the earth, and the influences of the air and water. The

earth

earth is univerſally repreſented by the figure of Iſis, who was the preſiding divinity in all the temples of Tentyra, and whoſe emblem or figure is found in every part: her head is ſeen forming the capital of the columns belonging to the portico, and the firſt chamber of the great temple: it is alſo in the centre of the aſtragal, and ſculptured in gigantic proportions, on the outſide of the foundation wall: it is the diſtinguiſhing object in the ornaments of the frieze and the cornice, and is conſpicuous in all the pictures with her proper attributes. It is Iſis to whom all the offerings are made, when they are not preſented by herſelf to her huſband Oſiris: her figure is inſcribed on the outer gates of the encloſure, and to her are dedicated the little temples that are there repreſented; in that on the right hand of the entrance, ſhe is triumphing over two evil genii; in that

which

which is behind the great temple, ſhe is variouſly deſcribed as holding Horus in her arms, defending him from every hoſtile attempt, entruſting him only to figures like cows, and ſuckling him at every age, from infancy to puberty.

I employed all the time in which, for want of light, I was unable to work at the planiſphere, in meaſuring the capitals and columns, in making plans and elevations, and taking views of the gates. There are now neither doors nor even hinges to theſe gates, which formerly ſecluded from prophane eyes thoſe myſteries of which the prieſts were ſo jealous, and alſo, perhaps, concealed the treaſures of the ſtate. The chambers conſecrated to eternal night, the myſterioufneſs of the worſhip, obſcure as the temples themſelves, the ſecret initiations, ſo difficult to be obtained, and for ever ſhut againſt ſtrangers,

and

and the ſudden overthrow, both of the government and religion, as ſoon as Cambyſes had violated the ſanctuaries, overthrown the divinities, and carried off the treaſures, all combine in announcing that, within theſe temples was contained the eſſence of all; and that hence emanated all the civil and religious authority of the ſtate.

My enquiries, my obſervations, and my labours, were cut ſhort by the eagerneſs of the ſheik of the village to rid the diſtrict of our preſence: after the firſt day he brought in his contribution, the general recalled the troops, and thus ended my expedition.

Juſt before ſetting off, I took a general view of the ſite of Tentyra, and the group of monuments that overlook the town, with the mountains riſing in the diſtance. I alſo copied an inſcription in beautiful and large Greek characters, placed like that at Kous on

on the liſtels to the right and left of the top of one of the outer gates, to the ſouth of the great temple. The following is the inſcription, taken as correctly as the mutilated ſtate of ſome of the letters would admit.

ΥΠΕΡΑΥΤΟΚΙΑΤΟΡΣΚΑΙΣΑΡΘΣΘΕΟΥΥΙΟΥΔΙΟ
ΣΕΛΕΥ . . : : : : : ΡΑΣΡΟΤΕΡΙΠΟΠΛΙΟΥΟΚΤΑΙΟ
ΥΗΓΕΜΟΝΟΣΚΑΙΜΑΡΚΟΥΚΛΩΔΙΟΥΠΟΣΤΟΜΟΥΕ
ΠΙΣΤΡΑΤΗΓΟΥΤΡΥΦΩΝΟΣΣΤΡΑΤΗΓΟΥΝΤΟΣΟΙΑ
ΠΟΤΘΣΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΕΩΣ : : : ⌒ ΧΝΟΜΟΥΤΟΠΡΟ
ΠΥΛΟΝΙΣΙΛΘΕΑΙΜΕΓΣΤΗΙΚΑΙΤΟΙΣΣΥΝΟΙΣΙΘΕΙ
ΟΙΣΙΕΤΟΣΛΑΚΑΙΣΑΡΟΣΟΩΥΘΣΕΒΑΣΤΗΙ.

Below is the ſame inſcription, with the words ſeparated, and the letters reſtored by the literati whom I have conſulted, together with the tranſlation that they have given of it.

Υπερ

Υπερ αυτοκρατορος Καισαρος Θεȣ υιȣ Διος ελευθεριȣ σωτηριας ὁτ επι Ποπλιȣ Οκταȣιȣ ηγεμονος και Μαρκȣ Κλωδιȣ Ποςȣμȣ επιςρατηγȣ Τρυφωνος ςρατηγȣντος οι απο της μητροπολεως ιερωσαν εκ νομȣ το προπυλον Ισιδι Θεαι μεγιςηι και τοις συνναοις Θεοις ετȣς λα Καισαρος Θωυθ σεβαςηι.

"On account of the Emperor Cæsar, "God, the son of Jupiter the Deliverer, "when Publius Octavius being governor, "Marcus Claudius Postumus commander in "chief, and Tryphon general, the deputies "of the metropolis consecrated, in virtue "of the law, the propylæum to Isis, the "greatest of the goddesses, and to the asso-"ciated gods of the temple, in the thirty-"first year of Cæsar."

There is another inscription on the listel of the cornice of the great temple; but I was unable to distinguish the characters suffi-

 ciently

ciently well to copy them. Theſe few Greek characters, in the midſt of innumerable Egyptian inſcriptions, form an extraordinary and ſtriking contraſt.

CHAPTER

CHAPTER XVIII.

Preſent State of Copthos—Kamſin Wind, or Hurricane of Egypt—Swarm of Locuſts—Defeat of Selim-Bey—March acroſs the Deſert to Coſſeir—Biralbarr—Fountains of Kittah and El-More—Deſcription of Coſſeir—Arab Cooking—Return to Mokatam—Feaſt at Abumanah—Egyptian Servants.

SOME days after my return from Tentyra, the cavalry was ſent to protect a military cheſt, which was to be conveyed from Eſneh to Keneh. I took advantage of this eſcort to go and viſit Keft, or Copthos, which I had paſſed at a diſtance three times before, without having had opportunity to ſtop and viſit this town, or even to ride through it. I wiſhed to know whe-

ther Copthos, which was ſo celebrated by the calamities which it underwent in the time of the perſecutions by Diocleſian, poſſeſſed any veſtiges of higher antiquity. I was ſtruck in entering the town with the good preſervation of its different monuments; the ancient part ſtill remains in the ſtate in which it was left by the conflagration which terminated the long ſiege that deſtroyed it in the third century; the old limits of the city have been abandoned, and to this has ſucceeded an Arab town, with a boundary wall of unbaked bricks, beyond which, verging to the weſt, was built the village of Keft, which ſtill exiſts. Was Copthos the ancient name of this town? And did the ancient Copts take their name from that of Copthos, where zeal collected their numbers, and made them ſuſtain ſo obſtinate and diſaſtrous a ſiege in the time of Diocle-

ſian?

ſian? One may evidently diſtinguiſh the different ruins of two temples of high antiquity, and thoſe of a catholic church, in which taſte and art in the conſtruction were certainly leſs remarkable than the magnificence and richneſs of the materials employed: the fragments of porphyry and granite columns and pilaſters, ſcattered over a vaſt ſpace of ground, remain to atteſt the opulence and luxury of the firſt believers; but the ſculpture on the doric friezes, ſome fragments of which are ſtill viſible, ſhew that at this period the efforts at embelliſhment, which art could command, only impoveriſhed the ſumptuous magnificence of the materials. All theſe monuments lie without form and order on the ground, excepting a few portions ſtill left ſtanding, and none of them would furniſh me with a ſingle ſubject for a drawing.

I had often heard ſpeak of the *kamſin*, which may be termed the hurricane of Egypt and the deſert; it is equally terrible by the frightful ſpectacle which it exhibits when preſent, and by the conſequences which follow its ravages. We had already paſſed with ſecurity one half of the ſeaſon in which it appears, when in the evening of the 18th of May, I felt myſelf entirely overcome by a ſuffocating heat; it ſeemed as if the fluctuation of the air was ſuddenly ſuſpended. I went out to bathe, in order to overcome ſo painful a ſenſation, when I was ſtruck on my arrival at the bank of the Nile, with a new appearance of nature around me; this was a light and colours which I had not yet ſeen. The ſun, without being concealed, had loſt its rays; it had even leſs luſtre to the eye than the moon, and gave a pale light without ſhade;

the water no longer reflected its rays, but appeared in agitation; every thing had changed its uſual aſpect; it was now the flat ſhore that ſeemed luminous, and the air dull and opaque; the yellow horizon ſhewed the trees on its ſurface of a dirty blue; flocks of birds were flying off before the cloud; the frighted animals ran looſe in the country, followed by the ſhouting inhabitants, who vainly attempted to collect them together again; the wind, which had raiſed this immenſe maſs of vapour, and was urging it forward, had not yet reached us; we thought that by plunging our bodies in the water, which was then calm, we could prevent the baneful effects of this maſs of duſt, which was advancing from the ſouth-weſt; but we had hardly entered the river when it began to ſwell all at once, as if it would overflow its channel, the waves paſſed over

our heads, and we felt the bottom heave up under our feet; our clothes were conveyed away along with the ſhore itſelf, which ſeemed to be carried off by the whirlwind which had now reached us; we were compelled to leave the water, and our wet and naked bodies being beat upon by a ſtorm of ſand, were ſoon encruſted with a black mud, which prevented us from dreſſing ourſelves; enlightened only by a red and gloomy ſun, with our eyes ſmarting, our noſes ſtuffed up, and our throats clogged with duſt, ſo that we could hardly breathe, we loſt each other and our way home, and arrived at our lodgings at laſt one by one, groping our way, and guided only by the walls, which marked our track. We could now eaſily conceive the dreadful ſituation of thoſe who are ſurpriſed with ſuch a phenomenon of nature, when croſſing the expoſed

and

and naked deſerts; and we were ſo accuſtomed to the ſerene ſky of Egypt, that we could hardly bear with any patience ſuch a ſudden tranſition.

The next day, the ſame maſs of duſt, attended with ſimilar appearances, travelled along the deſert of Lybia: it followed the chain of the mountains, and when we flattered ourſelves that we were entirely rid of this peſtilence, the weſt wind brought it back, and once more overwhelmed us with this ſcorching torrent; the flaſhes of lightning appeared to pierce with difficulty through this denſe vapour; all the elements ſeemed to be ſtill in diſorder; the rain was mixed with whirlwinds of fire, wind, and duſt, and in this time of confuſion the trees and all the other productions of nature ſeemed to be again plunged in the horrors of chaos.

If the deſert of Lybia had ſent us theſe clouds

clouds of duſt, thoſe on the eaſt, on the contrary, had been inundated with water, for the merchants who came from the borders of the Red Sea told us, that in the vallies they had the water up to the middle of their legs.

Two days after this diſaſter, we were told that the plain was covered with birds, which were paſſing on from eaſt to weſt, like the cloſe files of an army; and, indeed, we ſaw at a diſtance the fields appear to move, like a broad torrent flowing through the country. Thinking that they might be ſome foreign birds we haſtened out to meet them; but inſtead of birds we ſaw a cloud of locuſts, who juſt ſkimmed the ſoil, ſtopping at each blade of graſs to devour it, then flying off to new food. If it had been the ſeaſon in which the corn was young and tender, this would have been a ſerious plague; for theſe children

children of the defert are as lean, as active, and as vigorous as the Bedouin Arabs; it would be interefting to know how they live and produce fuch multitudes in fo arid a defert; perhaps it was the rain that had fallen in the valleys which had fuddenly hatched them, and had produced this emigration, juft as certain winds bring fwarms of gnats. The wind changing again in a contrary direction to their march, they were once more driven back into the defert. Thefe locufts are of a rofe-colour, fpeckled with black, very ftrong, fhy, and difficult to catch.

We learned that a detachment of two hundred men from our garrifon at Efneh, commanded by captain Renaud, had fet out from Etfu, and had marched towards Syene, in order to dislodge from this town Ofman and Affan-Bey, who had returned thither.

Emboldened by the fmall number of French,

French, who were marching without cannon, they attacked our men with their uſual impetuoſity. The event was that Selim-Bey fell by our bayonets, three ſheiks, one caſnadar, and forty two Mamelukes, were killed on the field of battle, or were carried off to Syene, where they died the ſame day; forty others were wounded, and the reſt of the fugitives aſcended the country above the cataracts as far as Bribes. This battle compleated the deſtruction of the Mameluke party; the Arab ſheiks of the tribe of Ababdes were convinced of the inſufficiency of their means of reſiſtance, ſeparated from the confederacy, and came to Keneh to make peace and alliance with us.

Deſaix, in order to drive Murad from his retreat, was preparing at Sïut an expedition for the oaſis; the command of it was to be given to his aid-de-camp Savari, whilſt gene-

ral

ral Beliard was getting ready the detachment which we were to ſend to Coſſeir. I ſhould have been glad to have accompanied both, but I was obliged to make my choice: whilſt I was heſitating, Murad quitted Helluah, and the Engliſh appeared at Coſſeir. All our attention was now directed to their quarter; General Douzelot arrived at Keneh, with orders to mark out the plan for a fort to contain ſix hundred men, and to go forward to Coſſeir to eſtabliſh himſelf there. The neceſſary proviſions were made for both projects, and we were ſoon ready to march for the deſert.

We collected a great number of camels, I ſay *we*, becauſe by degrees one identifies one's-ſelf with thoſe that one lives with, and I was a party concerned in every event that happened to the diviſion of Deſaix, and more particularly to the twenty-firſt demi-brigade.

I par-

I partook of its dangers, its ſucceſſes, its miſfortunes, and I perſuade myſelf that I came in for ſome ſhare of its glory. Our caravan was compoſed of three hundred and ſixty-ſix of our men; we had each of us a camel to ourſelves, which alſo carried the baggage and water neceſſary for each individual; and beſides, two hundred camels were loaded with articles of the firſt neceſſity for us on our arrival at Coſſeir. The chiefs of the Arabs, who had juſt made alliance with us, joined our caravan, making advantage of this opportunity to ingratiate themſelves with us by ſerving as guides, eſcort, and rear-guard; the whole party might amount in all to a thouſand or eleven hundred men, and as many camels. It was entertaining for us to ſee each other mount our beaſts; the camel, who is in general ſo deliberate in all his actions, mounts on his hind legs firſt very briſkly as

ſoon

ſoon as the rider leans on his ſaddle to ſpring up, and throws him firſt forward and then backward, and it is not till the fourth motion when the beaſt is entirely on his legs that the rider can find his balance. None of us had been able to reſiſt the firſt ſhake, and we each had to laugh at our neighbours till we were all well fixed on our ſeats.

We left Keneh the 26th of May, at ten in the morning, and arrived at four in the afternoon at Birambarr or Biralbarr *(the Well of Wells)* a village on the edge of the deſert, about as high up as Copthos, and oppoſite to the defile which leads to Kittah, a fountain, of which I have ſpoken above, and which is the radiating centre of all the different roads that lead to Coſſeir. We halted at Birambar, and after the camels had eat and drank as much as they choſe, they were compelled to

ſwallow

ſwallow a ſecond allowance of beans and barley, which was forced into their mouths.

The name of Biralbarr, or *Well of Wells*, ariſes doubtleſs from the two fountains, which are the only reſources which this village offers. The water is ſulphureous, but ſweet and refreſhing, owing to the nitre which it contains. I had been apprehenſive of the ſwinging pace of the camel, and the prancing of the dromedary had made me fear being thrown over his head, but I was ſoon agreeably undeceived. When once fixed in the ſaddle, one has only to give way to the motion of the beaſt, and one ſoon finds that it is impoſſible to be more pleaſantly mounted for a long journey, eſpecially as no attention is requiſite to guide the animal, except in turning him out of his ſtrait forward direction, which very ſeldom happens in the de-

ſert and amidſt a caravan. The camel very rarely trips, and never ſtumbles except where the ground is wet: the dromedary is among the camel tribe what the greyhound is among dogs; they are only uſed for the ſaddle: a ring is paſſed through their noſtril, to which a thong is tied, and this ſerves as a bridle to guide and ſtop him, or make him kneel when the rider wiſhes to diſmount. The pace of the dromedary is light, the opening of the angle of his long legs, and the flexible ſpring of his lean foot renders his trot eaſier than that of any horſe, and at the ſame time full as ſwift.

In quitting Biralbarr we turned to the eaſt, and entered a long wide valley, forming an extenſive plain, at the extremities of which appear ſome points of rocks, which ſhew that one is travelling along a chain of hills. I regretted I had not Dolomieu with me in

this journey, but Citizen Roziere ſupplied his place. We marched thus till ten at night in good order, ſo that on ſtopping at any time we could immediately form in military array. We then each ſpread our carpet beſide our camel, ſupped on it, and ſlept. At one in the morning the moon roſe the drum was beat, and in five minutes time we were all again on our march without any confuſion or trouble. In the deſert one feels one's reſpect redoubled for the camel, that venerable animal; however hard is his condition, he knows it, and conforms to it without impatience; he is a truly bountiful gift of Providence, and nature has ſet him down in a country in which his place could not be ſupplied to the ſervice of man by any animal whatever; the ſand is truly his element, for as ſoon as he quits it, and touches the mud, he can hardly keep upon his feet, and his

conſtant trips alarm the rider for the ſafety of himſelf and his baggage.

At day-break we arrived at Kittah, a very ſingular fountain, ſince it is ſituated on a higher level than all the ſurrounding ground; this fountain conſiſts of three wells ſix feet in depth, and the ſtrata of which are, firſt, a bed of ſand, and beneath, a free-ſtone rock, through which the water filtrates, and ſlowly fills the holes that are dug. There is here a ſmall moſque, or caravanſary, which ſerves for ſhelter to travellers when they are not very numerous.

One may here be convinced of the importance of thoſe wells which are ſo often mentioned in the Old Teſtament, and the hiſtory of the Arabs; and one ſees how difficult it would be to erect the ſmalleſt edifice in ſuch inſulated and unprotected ſpots, that are ſo barren of neceſſary ſupplies; and

yet it would be abſolutely neceſſary, in taking permanent poſſeſſion of Egypt, to erect a fortreſs, and to keep a garriſon in Kittah, to aſſure a free communication between Coſſeir and the Nile, and to repreſs the Arabs of theſe parts, to whom this fountain is a poſt which renders them maſters of an extenſive country, on account of the permanent and inexhauſtible ſource of water, which, if not ſecured, would always afford a ready ſupply to an enemy as ſoon as he was driven into the deſert. We continued to march the reſt of the day through the ſame kind of country, but it inſenſibly roſe, and the ranges of mountains on either ſide approached nearer to each other. We then encamped during the evening, and reſumed our march as on the day before.

At day-break we found the appearance of the country changed; the mountains

that we had paſſed the day before were rocks of free-ſtone, theſe were of pudding-ſtone, being a mixture of granite, porphyry, ſerpentine, and other primitive ſpecies, aggregated in green ſchiſtus. The valley continued to grow narrower, and the rocks on every ſide more lofty. At noon we had reached the firſt half of our journey, in the midſt of fine rocks of breccia, which would be very eaſy to work, if it were not for the great diſtance from any ſupplies of proviſion: the portions of granite, of which this breccia is compoſed, ſhew that the primitive mountains are not far diſtant. Having paſſed theſe fine rocks, we began to deſcend again, till we reached a fountain called *El-More*, which is only a ſmall hole under a rock. The water was excellent, but not ſufficient for our numerous caravan; we paſſed on to a ſecond watering-place, compoſed of ſeveral wells,

under a rock of very green ſchiſtus, mixed with white quartz, which gives it the appearance of the antique green marble. This was the only ſpot for about forty paces in which the road was narrow and difficult, and gave us ſome trouble to get our artillery over; all the reſt was like a well ſanded walk in a garden: the baſe of the rock is ſwept by torrents from the ſides of the hills when it rains; and theſe floods, which only laſt a few hours, level the valley before them, without, however, making a ravine.

The variety of form and colour in theſe rocks began to break the ſad and monotonous uniformity of the deſert, and gave it almoſt a rural appearance; the country became ſonorous; the noiſe of our party began to echo in the valleys, and appeared like the wakening of nature, for our troops had croſſed the ſandy plains in ſilence; hardly had

had they begun to converſe when in the valleys, but when arrived among the rocks, they made them reſound with mirth and gaiety, and the gloom of the deſert diſappeared. This ſecond fountain, though abundant, was too limited to ſupply the wants of our whole troop; only a part of them could fill their water-veſſels, and we puſhed on to that of El-Adoute, where the water, though not quite ſo ſweet, is ſtill very good. We dug a well, which directly gave it of excellent quality; and as it was the only drinkable water that we were to meet with in the remainder of our journey, we and our camels drank for the preſent and future, replaced with it that which was in our water-veſſels, and took in as large a ſupply as poſſible, to laſt us to Coſſeir, as it would be ſcanty and bad in the whole road thither. With a fortified tower, a ciſtern, and a caravanſary

eſtabliſhed here, the paſſage from Coſſeir to the Nile would be as eaſily practicable as any other road.

In proportion as we deſcended, the mountains diminiſhed in height; they no longer exhibited the ſame beds of magnificent breccia, but were again become ſiliceous, croſſed with quartz. We ſtopped to ſleep ſome hours, after having marched eighteen. At day-break we found the valley much enlarged, and ſoon it was croſſed ſuddenly by a reddiſh calcareous mountain, edged with ſome rocks of free-ſtone; we coaſted along the foot of this mountain, which, in rounding off, was terminated by a ſchiſtoſe rock, and beyond it the ſtrata were entirely calcareous. Here is the fountain of Ambagi, but the water is only drinkable for camels; though it is in conſiderable quantity, it poſſeſſes the quality of a mineral ſpring, and would

would perhaps be as ſalutary in the cure of diſeaſes as Spa, or Barege; but here, where, owing to the ſterility of the ſoil, and the ſobriety of the inhabitants, there are but few diſeaſes and no phyſicians, this ſpring creeps inglorious under a black and mephitic mud: and as it purges thoſe who can endure the deteſtable taſte which it leaves in the mouth, and encreaſes inſtead of ſatisfying thirſt, it paſſes for the moſt malignant fountain in the country. However, it has been the means of the growth of ſeven or eight palm-trees, which form the only grove that is to be ſeen for fifty leagues around.

I perceived by the lightneſs of the air, that we were approaching the ſea; and ſoon, in following the courſe of a large ravine, we ſaw the waves breaking on the reefs which line the ſhore. A miſt on the horizon pointed out to us the Aſiatic coaſt, which,

however,

however, was too far to be at all difcerned. The Ababdes Arabs, who had preceded us, had gone on before to give notice of our arrival to the inhabitants of Coffeir, and we faw them return with the fheiks of the town and their followers, driving before them a flock of fheep, the firft offering of peace and homage. The coftume of the Coffeirans is the fame as that of Mecca; the Ababdes were many of them naked, except a girdle round their loins, with a lance in their hands, and a dagger attached to the left arm; they fat with their legs croffed on the lofty faddle of their meagre dromedaries, forming a fingular contraft with the Meccans, who had a graver air, wore a head-drefs like the ancient Roman augurs, were wrapped up in long garments with broad ftripes, and were mounted on large camels. As foon as the different parties met, every one difmounted; our

our troops put themſelves in order of battle, and after an amicable conference of a few minutes, we went altogether to take poſſeſſion of the caſtle, on which the white ſtandard of peace was waving. I had formed ſuch an idea of a pitiful town and ruined caſtle in Coſſeir, that when I came to them, I thought the former almoſt ſplendid, and the caſtle, a fort. This latter is an Arab edifice, built in the times of the caliphs, in the ſtyle of the fortifications of Alexandria, forming a ſquare with four curtains, flanked with as many baſtions, without ditches: but by adding a counterſcarp to the preſent fortifications, the caſtle may reſiſt the floating batteries and the troops which may be landed from the Red Sea. The port and road of Coſſeir is formed by reefs, which defend it from the north-north-weſt winds, and a head-land that protects it from the ſouth-

fouth-fouth-eaft. It is open on the eaft and fouth-eaft. This head-land, or cape, is entirely of late formation, and is compofed of nothing but madrepores, the greater number of which are of an enormous fize. Nothing can defcribe in adequate terms the fevere fadnefs of the country, the rigid afpect of the foil, and the infupportably dazzling reflection of the fun from the white fhelly fhore; and to fee human beings in buftle and agitation in this barren fpot, gives one a ftriking picture of the privations which avarice will endure in order to obtain a fuperfluity. The Arab houfes are compofed of a few pieces of wood that fupport fome miferable mats, under which the inhabitants live on fhell-fifh, and form all their houfehold utenfils of the fhells; and even work them into boxes, which are not without elegance. It would have been interefting to have re-

connoitered

connoitered the road of Berenice, which was made at a great expence by the Ptolomies, forty leagues to the ſouth, and afterwards abandoned for that of Coſſeir, which, however, will only hold a ſmall number of merchant ſhips of inferior ſize, as the depth of water is only two fathoms, and two and a half where it is the deepeſt. To load the veſſels, they are obliged to carry the goods in the arms of men a hundred and fifty paces from the ſhore, to put them on board boats, which afterwards have to take them to the veſſels which are to be freighted. With all theſe inconveniencies, it might at firſt appear ſurpriſing, to find ſtill ſome commercial activity in the huts and rubbiſh of Coſſeir; but when one conſiders, that it is, after all, the beſt known port in the Red Sea, that it furniſhes corn to Mecca, and receives the

coffee

coffee of Yemen, that it is the point of contact between Aſia and Africa, and might become the *entrepôt* of the merchandize of theſe parts of the world, one is ſtill more aſtoniſhed that any government can be ſo waſtefully blind to its own reſources, as to have thought of nothing but haraſſing, and vexing by impoſitions, a commerce, which would return ſuch large intereſt for all that might be advanced to it. Neither cuſtom-houſe, nor magazines, nor even a ſingle ciſtern are to be found at Coſſeir. When we arrived at this port, there was no other water in the town than what was brought from Aſia, and this coſt us a ſous a goblet; but the activity of our ſoldiers made them find ſprings in twenty-four hours; and we got for nothing water better than that which was ſold ſo dear, though it could not be kept or

heated

heated without acquiring an almoſt inſupportable bitterneſs. But as there is no doubt that freſh water is to be found in the vicinity of Coſſeir, we left it to the garriſon which remained behind in the place, and to the indefatigable Douzelot, who was to command it, to find in the beds of clay ſome ſpring which might not be impregnated with any arid and noxious matter.

The coaſt all about Coſſeir is frightfully poor and barren, but the ſea is rich in fiſh, ſhells, and corals: the latter are ſo numerous, that it may have been here that the whole ſea acquired the name of *Red*, whilſt the ſand on the ſhore is ſo white. The reefs are only coral and madrepores, as well as all the rocks which lie in theſe ſeas, to within half a league of the actual ſhore. I ſhould have had much ſatisfaction in making a col-

lection

lection of the ſhells on this coaſt, which appeared to be as numerous as varied; but I had ſome other drawings to make, and theſe, with the neceſſary preparations for returning, allowed me no ſpare time, except to make an excurſion along the ſhore with our new allies the Ababdes Arabs. I mounted one of their dromedaries, ſeated myſelf in the ſaddle of the faſhion of the country, and was delighted with the light eaſy pace of the one, and the commodiouſneſs of the other. We entirely gained their friendſhip by exerciſing with them in mock charges, and ſhewing ſo much confidence in them, as to accompany them all day at a diſtance from Coſſeir, and riding with them at the rate of a league in leſs than a quarter of an hour.

Two days after our arrival, that we might not waſte the proviſions of thoſe that we

left

left behind, we ſet out on our return; we were ſtill preceded by our Arab friends, to whom the deſert ſeemed by right to belong. They neglected none of the products of their empire; for we perceived two gazelles flying into the deſert, upon which four of our allies ſet out in purſuit of them, with indifferent matchlock guns; ſome minutes after we heard only two ſhots fired, and we ſaw them return with both the gazelles, who were as fat as if they had been fed in the richeſt paſture. I was invited to partake of them; and being curious to know how their cookery was carried on, I went to their quarter: the leader, who was as proud as a ſovereign, had no other decoration than the belt which we had given him; his palace was wherever he ſpread his carpet; his kitchen utenſils conſiſted of two plates of copper, and a pot of the

the ſame metal; butter, flour, and two ſticks of wood, completed his table equipage: in a few minutes he had ſtruck a light, collected old camels' dung for fuel, made dough of his flour, and cooked ſome fritters, which were very good when hot; and this, with the ſoup of the fleſh, the bouillie, and broiled meat, made up a very tolerable repaſt for one who had any appetite, which, however, was not my caſe, for I had not the leaſt in the deſert, and I lived almoſt entirely on lemonade, which I generally made when riding on my camel, by putting ſlices of lemon in my mouth, along with ſugar, and waſhing it down with water. Our Arabs were acquainted with every corner of paſturage; they knew to what forwardneſs of growth ſuch and ſuch plants ſhould have attained at a league's diſtance from the regular track,

track, and ſent their camels to feed upon them: theſe poor animals had nothing elſe in the whole day but a ſingle feed of beans, which they ruminate for the remainder of the day, either on their journey, or lying down on the ſcorching ſand, without teſtifying the leaſt impatience. The paſſion of deſire alone gives them ſome violence in their actions, particularly the females, who appear more irritable; and, what is extraordinary, fatigue ſeems to inflame their temperament, inſtead of exhauſting them.

Our return was ſtill more rapid than our journey out: being freed from the incumbrance of artillery, and every kind of lading, we marched more briſkly, ſtill, however, abridging the time of our halts and our ſleep. We returned in two days and a half; but, for the laſt half day we were quite overcome

 with

with fatigue and drought, and I could only quench my thirſt by eating largely of melons, and plunging in the Nile. After travelling for eight days in the deſert, the ſenſes are awakened by the ſlighteſt impreſſions; and I ſtill remember the delight which I felt on again ſpending the night reclined on the banks of the Nile, hearing the wind ruſtling in the leaves of trees, and feeling the refreſhing coolneſs that it acquires in bruſhing through the long leaves of the palm, which it gently agitates: every thing was alive, and gave animating ſenſations; life was in the air, and nature ſeemed to reſpire. However, I became fully convinced by this journey, made in the hotteſt time of the year, and the hazard of which had been much exaggerated to us, that the undertaking it is what requires the effort of courage, and the

danger

danger flies from thofe who brave it. I will here add a note of the hours of march in our route, which are not liable to vary, as the pace of every loaded camel is the fame: no other alteration can occur in this reckoning than what arifes from accidents, and from the greater or lefs time fpent in halts and night encampments. However, every other feafon of the year is preferable to that which we were obliged to take for this expedition: in winter the traveller may be refrefhed in the mountains by a rain of feveral hours, which furnifhes abundance of water, and renders the journey only a promenade on a large plain of fand; but, during the time of the kamfin, one may be affailed by thefe hurricanes, which, however, we had the good fortune to efcape.

Hours of March of our loaded Camels from Keneh to Coffeir.

		Hours.	Min.
From Keneh to Byr-al-Baar	—	3	50
To the halt for the night in the defert		4	45
To Kittah — —	—	3	30
To the night-halt —	—	4	30
To the firft fountain —	—	9	35
To the fecond, called El-ad-Houte		0	45
To the night-halt —	—	4	30
To the fountain of Ambagi	—	8	45
To Coffeir — —	—	1	45
Total		41	55

There only wants at Mokatam granite and porphyry rocks to give it all the characters of a primitive chain, and thefe might probably be found there, fince, in the breccia of which

which the mountains are compoſed, rounded fragments of theſe ſubſtances are obſerved. On the declivity on each ſide, the ſame circumſtances may be noticed; that is to ſay, ſands ariſing from the decompoſition of the calcareous ſtone, calcareous rocks, free-ſtone, ſchiſtus, and breccia; the decay of the rocks, which appear often reduced to their primitive nuclei, give a picture reſembling the worn mountains of China. Citizen Roſiere could find no traces of emeralds, though the valley is celebrated for poſſeſſing mines of this precious ſtone.

In the ſolitary and baniſhed ſtate in which we found ourſelves, we were conſtantly expecting news, and were eager to learn the particulars of the operations and ſucceſſes of our chiefs but this intelligence was often clouded with grief in hearing of the loſs of

ſome one or other of our brave companions. Theſe fatigues of the mind, joined to thoſe of the body, recalled, in a melancholy way, our thoughts towards our native country, and made us feel our forlorn ſituation, and the neceſſity which we felt of being near human beings to whom we were bound by the ties of affection. We had at this time to regret the loſs of General Caffarelli, who united to very diſtinguiſhed talents the zeal of a truly philanthropic patriotiſm; he conſtantly ſoftened the rage for daring enterprize by the love of humanity, and was ever watchful over the welfare and ſafety of the men committed to his care; in him the well-informed and ſenſible loſt a father and a friend; and in my own perſon, I often, in making my drawings, pleaſed myſelf with imagining the gratification which he would take in inſpecting them,

them, and the regard for me which my zeal would excite in him. What recompence could be more flattering than the approbation of ſuch a friend!

On our return we were eager to enjoy the favours of the Nile, and we were going to plunge our parched bodies in its ſalutary wave, when we found its uſual appearance was quite changed: during the latter days of the kamſin, the current of the Nile becomes ſluggiſh, the waters loſe their uſual ſalubrity and tranſparency, and become green, throwing up flakes of foul mud, which exhale a mephitic odour: in ſhort, it is then no longer the bountiful river, the creator and preſerver of Egypt; but it grows heavy in its motion, and would alarm the inhabitants of the banks, if its periodic reſtoration to its uſual ſtate was not as conſtant a phenome-

non

tion for them as it is ſurpriſing to the curious traveller. It keeps falling till the 17th of June, remains in ſtagnation for two days, and on the 19th it begins to riſe.

It is at this period that the reſidence in Upper Egypt is almoſt inſupportable; the winds are variable, and are conſtantly changing from the eaſt to the ſouth, or the ſouth-weſt: this latter is terrible, for it troubles the atmoſphere, obſcures the ſun with a white, dry, and burning vapour, parches with thirſt, dries up every thing, inflames the blood, irritates the nerves, and makes life itſelf painful: it alſo oppreſſes the lungs ſo ſeverely, that one involuntarily ſeeks for cooler air to breathe in, feeling as if the mouth was an oven of fire; if one inhales the air by the noſtrils, it affects the head, and in again exhaling it, it feels like a guſh of blood ruſhing

over

over the air-paſſages; every thing that one touches is burning, and iron even in the night acquires the ſame heat to the touch as it would in France in the dog-days, expoſed to the noon-day beams of the ſun.

During theſe latter days we made an expedition to Sahmateh and Abumanah, frontier places of the government of the Thebaid, to ſettle with the inhabitants for the neceſſary labours of dykes and canals. Our general was received like the governor of a province; the kaimakan, or general of the armed inhabitants, who was a rich man, had prepared for us on one of his eſtates a large court well watered, which in ſome degree quelled the burning heat of the ſeaſon. In the evening he gave a ſupper to ourſelves, the ſheiks of the province, the detachment which accompanied us, and for the numerous ſervants who had made themſelves part

of our ſuite ; for in the eaſt they are a kind of vermin, which multiply at every ſtep, and feed upon you, without your being able to defend yourſelf from their importunities. Scarcely have you engaged a ſingle domeſtic than you are ſerved by another, who never ſhews ſo much zeal as when he has no wages, and only takes pains when he is the ſervant's deputy ; but as ſoon as you give him a livery he muſt have his horſe, and this introduces a third officious fellow, and ſo on. Theſe bloodſuckers, who inſenſibly encreaſed in the army, were more burdenſome to the country, and more barbarouſly deſtructive to the property of the inhabitants than the army itſelf ; they robbed with brutal audacity, proportioned to the rank or power of their maſters, to whom they became inſolent as ſoon as they could paſs into the ſervice of one more powerful, with whom they ſuppoſed they

might

might continue their courſe with more impunity. They purſue their plundering ſchemes at the expence of the cultivator, the manufacturer, and all the uſeful and reſpectable claſſes of ſociety: it is true that every battle freed us from a great number of them, but they returned for pillage, and only changed their maſters. I have ſeen ſome, who in the beginning of the campaign had been grooms, on their return giving their orders to three ſervants, and by means of promotions which they impudently made among each other, perform no other office than that of holding the ſtirrup for their maſter when he mounted, and even then having one of their underſtrappers at hand to hold their pipe, or rather to ſhew to the by-ſtanders the dignity to which they had arrived. It muſt be acknowledged, however, that by degrees we rendered ourſelves accomplices of this

 corruption,

corruption; for we caught the ſpirit of orientals in breathing the ſame air with them, and we became ſo accuſtomed to a ſuite, that we ſoon could not do without a large train of attendants.

END OF VOL. II.

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